

## Big powers may review Baker trip

LONDON (R) — The five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council may meet before a trip by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker to Baghdad to discuss the Gulf crisis, British government officials said Monday. The five permanent members are Britain, China, France, the Soviet Union and the United States. "The meeting would ensure that Baker takes a very firm message from the five" to Iraq, one official said. The officials said such a meeting would probably be in Europe and at foreign minister level. No date has been set. Washington and Baghdad have still not fixed a date for the Baker trip. Iraq has proposed January 12, which Washington says is too close to a January 15 Security Council deadline for Baghdad to quit Kuwait or face being removed by force. The United States has proposed four dates between Dec. 20 and Jan. 3. Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz is due to meet U.S. President George Bush in Washington, probably on Dec. 17, in the first stage of face-to-face talks aimed at ensuring an Iraqi withdrawal and a peaceful solution to the crisis.

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## 2 more U.S. soldiers die in Gulf

DAHRAN (R) — Two more U.S. soldiers were killed in weekend accidents in Saudi Arabia, raising to 53 the number of Americans who have died in Operation Desert Shield, the military said Monday. One soldier died Sunday when the articulated lorry he was driving overturned, pinning him inside the cab, during a water resupply mission. In a separate incident Sunday, a soldier died in circumstances that were still unclear. The army was investigating the cause of both accidents.

## Velayati to visit Moscow

MOSCOW (R) — Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati will pay an official visit to the Soviet Union in mid-December, TASS news agency said Monday. It said the Soviet government had invited Velayati, but gave no further details.

## Man kills himself in Gulf protest

ISLETON, California (AP) — A man who doused himself with fuel and then set himself ablaze left flares describing his suicide as a protest of U.S. policies in the Gulf, authorities said. Timothy T. Brown, 48, a knife-sharpener who served his customers from his van, burned to death Sunday morning on the steps of a deserted cannery in this northern California community. Brown's van had a stack of one-page letters on the side window next to a sign that said, "take one." "I, Tim Brown, Vietnam veteran, declare that my act of self-immolation is a direct protest of American war policy in the Middle East. America do not go to war... American, do not repeat the mistake of Vietnam."

## Iraq rejects Libyan reports

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq Monday dismissed a report by the official Libyan news agency that it was discussing the transfer of some Americans to Libya. The Libyan agency JANA had said the Americans would be exchanged for Libyans evacuated from Chad by the United States. The Iraqi News Agency quoted Information Minister Latif Jassem as saying: "The news is groundless... those who circulated the news are alone responsible for their lies."

## France to boost its Gulf force

PARIS (AP) — France has decided to reinforce its military contingent in Saudi Arabia, Defence Minister Jean-Pierre Chevenement announced Monday. He declined to give details, saying these would be made known in the next few days. France currently has about 6,250 army and air force personnel in Saudi Arabia as part of the multinational force confronting Iraq.

## Zoubi in Cairo

CAIRO (R) — Syrian Prime Minister Mahmoud Zoubi arrived in Cairo Monday on a three-day visit to discuss economic integration with Egypt. Zoubi, heading a ministerial team, was holding a first round of talks with his Egyptian counterpart Atef Sedki Monday.

## Israel expels mayor from S. Lebanon

RASHAYA, Lebanon (R) — Israeli authorities expelled a mayor from their self-proclaimed "security zone" in South Lebanon Monday because he refused to cooperate with them, sources said. Abdo Abdul Hamid, mayor of Kfar Hamam village, was taken by Israeli-backed militiamen to the Zennara gate linking the zone to the Bekaa Valley and ordered not to return, they said. Abdul Hamid told reporters in the village of Chitoura he was expelled after he and two other mayors refused to establish Israel-supervised "civil administrations" in their villages.

# Benjedid launches Gulf peace mission

By P.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Algerian President Chadli Benjedid today launches a fresh bid to explore the chances for mediation among the Arab parties to the Gulf crisis.

Announcing Benjedid's mission, who is expected to arrive in Amman today before proceeding to Iraq and Saudi Arabia, Algeria's AFS news agency said the president had "constantly maintained contacts with his peers on the situation of crisis," that prevails in the Gulf.

One of the key components of the initiative is a meeting between Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and King Fahd of Saudi Arabia, highly informed sources said.

"It is time that the countries which have not joined the war camp use their credibility and good offices to resolve the Gulf conflict," a senior Jordanian official said. "Indeed Algeria is prominent among such countries and we see (the Algerian effort) as highly positive and welcome it," the official told the Jordan Times.

"The efforts of Yemen and Oman — although the Omanis did not assume a very high profile

role — are also very commendable," added the official, preferring to remain anonymous.

According to another informed source, "an important Arab effort to mediate the Gulf crisis is now focused on the Algerian leader's ability to convince both (President) Saddam and (King Fahd) of the need to climb down from their firm positions if only for the sake of averting a devastating war with unpredictable outcome."

APS said that Benjedid "intends to pursue his consultations (with other Arab leaders) and continue the efforts of Algeria for the good of all peoples of the region as well as the higher interests of the Arab Nation."

The Algerian effort also enjoys the support of many members of the Non-Aligned Movement and fits in as the "missing Arab element" in the ongoing missions by former Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega, according to Third World diplomatic sources.

"A multitude of international statesmen and politicians is waiting in the wings hoping that Benjedid would be successful in softening the Saudi position," said a diplomat. "Hopefully, once that is achieved, then these leaders will exert collective as

well as individual efforts to augment the initiative in such a way that would make it virtually impossible for the U.S. to brush it aside," the diplomat added.

Among the leaders the diplomat mentioned as involved in the effort are: former German Chancellor Willy Brandt, former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, former Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone, Mexican President Carlos Salinas, Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi and Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez.

"Although some of these leaders are not in power, they can do things that governments cannot," added the diplomat.

According to the sources, the Benjedid mission is the result of several weeks of painstaking consultations among Arab leaders. Diplomats noted that King Fahd had sent one of his advisers, Sheikh Ali Ben Muslim, to Algeria twice in four days last week for talks with Benjedid.

The president has also met with Iraqi and Kuwaiti envoys several times since the Gulf crisis broke out.

A meeting between Saddam and Fahd, the two key leaders involved in the Gulf crisis, was also the focal point of efforts exerted by His Majesty King

# King presents mechanism to achieve Mideast peace

By Lamis K. Andoni  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

HIS MAJESTY KING HUSSEIN's call Sunday for a simultaneous convening of an international peace conference on the Middle East and the implementation of United Nations Security Council resolutions regarding Kuwait marked the first Arab proposal for a mechanism to link the Gulf crisis to the Palestinian problem.

According to political analysts, King Hussein is seeking to cushion Washington's opposition to any sort of linkage between the two conflicts by emphasizing two elements acceptable to all of the U.S. allies: Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait and the convening of an international peace conference to solve the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Although the King did not refer to the Iraqi position regarding the proposal in his speech, well-informed Arab

sources said that his call was consistent with ideas discussed with the Iraqi President Saddam Hussein last week in Baghdad.

Consequently the King's proposal is believed to be part of a strategy worked out at the Baghdad meeting, also attended by Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat and Yemeni Vice-President Ali Nasser Beedh. The mini-summit went a long way towards coordinating a common negotiating position prior to the projected Iraqi-American dialogue, according to officials and observers here.

They told the Jordan Times that the Iraqi President indicated that he would only be ready to compromise if there was progress towards a just settlement for the Palestinian problem. What Iraq meant by that progress, it was not immediately clear, they said.

Arab officials and analysts pointed out that neither Iraq

nor Jordan is seeking a mechanical linkage but as the King made clear in his speech, the situation in the region will remain explosive if the Gulf crisis is resolved without initiating a peace process in the Middle East.

In an interview with the American ABC Television network last week Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz stressed that his country did not insist on a certain terminology to describe the connection between the Gulf crisis and the Arab-Israeli conflict. The objective, he explained, was to settle all of the unresolved problems plaguing the region.

In the English text of King Hussein's speech, both the terms "linkage" and "interrelation" between all problems in the area were used in an another indication that Jordan also was more concerned to see a beginning of a genuine

# Iraq restates hardline, says U.S. should be serious in talks

Combined agency dispatches

IRAQ DECLARED Monday that it would not compromise "one iota" over Kuwait, ending speculation Baghdad might relinquish most of the emirate in return for control over a northern chunk.

In a statement carried by the Iraqi News Agency (INA), Information Minister Latif Jassem said that news reports suggesting that an Iraqi withdrawal was possible "were nothing but dreams and wishful thinking."

"Kuwait is for Iraq, whether in the past, present or future and we will not compromise one iota on Kuwaiti territory, its waters or the money and investment of the buried Al Sabah dynasty," Jassem said referring to Kuwait's deposed ruling family.

INA said his remarks were in response to what it called fabricated news of public and secret mediation over the Gulf crisis. Kuwait's toppled regime also said Monday it would not agree to give Iraq an inch of its territory and dismissed as "totally untrue" reports it was involved in secret talks with Baghdad.

The ousted foreign minister, Sabah Al Ahmed Al Sabah, said a report in the London-based Independent on Sunday was

based on "fabricated rumours... and totally untrue."

The Independent on Sunday said Kuwait's exiled leaders and Saudi Arabia were secretly contacting Iraq through third parties to settle the border dispute between Kuwait and Iraq.

Since its invasion of Kuwait on Aug. 2 Iraq has said it will never leave the emirate and any talks on its future will have to be linked to other Middle East issues, primarily the Palestinian question.

The United States and its Western allies have rejected such a link and, together with several Arab states, sent some 400,000 troops to the Gulf region.

In a dispatch monitored in Nicosia, INA quoted Jassem as saying Iraq will demand repayment of all foreign loans and grants made by the Kuwaiti government prior to the Iraqi invasion.

"This money belongs to the people of Iraq and it is impermissible that it be squandered or tampered with."

"We shall take to court those who took money as grants or borrowed some of it in the form of foreign loans," Jassem said.

He said if Washington "chooses to resolve problems

through a military confrontation, Iraq supported by the Arabs and Muslims is capable of inflicting a great defeat on the United States and its allies."

He said: "Those who talk about implementation of the United Nations resolutions, should first seek implementation of resolutions related to the Palestinian cause which have been passed since 1947."

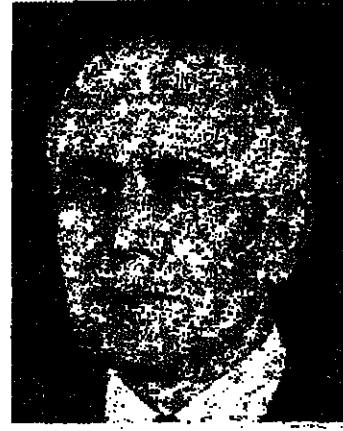
"As they are incapable in the (U.N.) Security Council of reaching a resolution to protect the Palestinians, they also are incapable of implementing resolutions and resolving complicated problems," Jassem said.

He noted that the Aug. 12 declaration by Iraq, linking a settlement in Kuwait to an Israeli withdrawal from occupied territories remains "the only practical process for settlement of the problems in the Arab region which were caused by the United States and its allies."

The U.N. Security Council earlier this month passed a resolution authorising the use of force against Iraq if it does not quit Kuwait by Jan. 15.

President George Bush then proposed talks with Iraq, Baghdad accepted.

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Chadli Benjedid

Hussein. It was believed to be one of the key themes discussed during a mini-summit the King held with the Iraqi president, Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and Yemeni Vice-President Ali Salem Al Beedh in Baghdad last week.

"There is no objection from the Iraqi side to a meeting between Saddam and Fahd," said one source. "Saddam himself has repeatedly told senior peace envoys that he is ready for talks with King Fahd," the source noted. "It has been the Saudi side which has turned down the Iraqi overture."

Qaddafi has also been one of the Arab leaders who sought to arrange an Iraqi-Saudi summit but gave up after Riyadh remained firm on its condition that any dialogue with Iraq could

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## More foreigners leave Baghdad

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — More than 380 foreigners, mostly Britons, left for freedom Monday following Iraq's decision to release Westerners and Japanese held to deter attack during the Gulf crisis.

Airport officials said an Iraqi Airways Jumbo jet left Baghdad for London at 8.35 p.m. (1735 GMT) with 384 passengers. It was expected to arrive in six hours' time.

The plane had been scheduled to leave at 1300 GMT. Officials said Turkey and other countries had been slow in sending permission for the flight to cross their territory.

Western diplomats said more than 270 Britons were on board the plane.

The flight started Sunday when more than 500 Westerners left for home.

In a surprise move last Thursday, Iraqi President Saddam Hussein ordered the release of all 2,600 foreigners in time for Christmas and the New Year.

A Japanese embassy spokesman said Monday the mission had reached agreement with the Iraqi Airways to airlift more than 110 Japanese civilians and diplomats to Bangkok Tuesday.

The Japanese are staying at Baghdad's closely-guarded Mansour Melia hotel on the Tigris. American and other Westerners were being moved to the hotel Monday from Kuwait and likely war targets in Iraq.

Iraq has refused to allow foreign airlines to take part in the airlift. The foreigners are being flown home on chartered Iraqi Airways planes.

A U.S. Chartered Boeing 747 landed in Frankfurt early Monday with about 330 Westerners, including some 175 Americans. Another Iraqi plane landed in Rome Sunday night with more than 200 passengers, 161 of them Italians, on board.

The British embassy said it planned to send a plane to Kuwait Tuesday to fly out most of the more than 300 Britons believed to be still in the emirate.

A Soviet Airlines flew home 165 more Soviets from Iraq on Monday, bringing to 408 the number who have left the country since Baghdad said last week that all Soviets could leave.

Deputy Foreign Ministry spokesman Yuri Gremitskiikh said at a briefing Monday that 243 people left last Friday, and 165 more left Tuesday aboard regular Soviet Aeroflot airline flights from Baghdad.

# Bethlehem under curfew after bomb kills soldier

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli soldiers enforced a rare curfew in Bethlehem Monday, and Mayor Elias Freij condemned a bombing there that killed an Israeli soldier and wounded two others the day before.

Military officials said they were uncertain the bombing amounted to a stepping up of the Palestinian uprising, but a Jewish settler official urged that leaders of the revolt be expelled as punishment.

Two weeks before Christmas, the West Bank city of Bethlehem — the site of Christ's birth — looked like a virtual ghost town as soldiers manned roadblocks, closed stores and ordered all Palestinians indoors, reports said.

Photographers said that about half a dozen tourist buses arrived under military escort to Manager Square where they visited the

Church of Nativity, the traditional site of Christ's birth.

The army clamped a curfew on Bethlehem Sunday, the third anniversary of the Palestinian uprising, following the explosion of two pipebombs as an army foot patrol passed a military base on the Jerusalem-Bethlehem highway. One soldier was killed and two others slightly wounded.

No group has claimed responsibility for the attack.

"I condemn all acts of violence," said Mayor Freij. "Yesterday an Arab was killed or shot in Gaza. He's a human being. The Israeli soldiers who were killed in Bethlehem. He's a human being," he said on Israel Radio.

"We cannot differentiate or discriminate against one human being and another human being," he added, saying the only solution was dialogue between Palestinians and Israelis.

"What is depressing and increasing tension is the absence of any prospect of peaceful dialogue," he said.

Arab reporters said the curfew on Bethlehem was the first since Nov. 15, 1988, when the army shut down all the occupied territories to prevent celebrations and demonstrations.

Chief of staff Dan Shomron joined Defence Minister Moshe Arens on a visit to the site of the bombing and said it did not constitute a shift to a more violent revolt.

While most refugee camps in the West Bank also remained under curfew, the army — lifted the widespread curfews elsewhere in the occupied territories imposed Thursday to prevent violence over the weekend on the third anniversary of the

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# U.S. pressing for U.N. deal over peace conference call

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The United States was negotiating with non-aligned states Monday in an effort to remove reference to a Mideast peace conference from the heart of a proposed Security Council resolution.

But Malaysian Ambassador Ismail Razali told reporters during a break in the talks that no agreement had been reached and that non-aligned states were planning to force a vote Monday afternoon on a resolution calling for a Middle East peace conference.

Razali, asked whether the talks were deadlocked, replied, "Yes." If the measure is brought unchanged before the council, the United States would have to abstain or veto it — both actions likely to antagonize Arab members of the Anti-Iraqi coalition the United States has assembled.

The intense negotiations were to continue in the afternoon. They involve U.S. Ambassador Thomas Pickering, Razali and Yemen's envoy, Abdallah Saleh Al Ashtal, who serves as council president this month. A representative of Finland had joined earlier talks.

The council, which already had postponed several sessions at U.S. request, was to meet later to vote on the resolution on providing protection for Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied territories.

The United States is under pressure from Israel to exercise its veto to kill even a vague mention of a Mideast conference in the distant future. But Arab states, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and some non-aligned nations say such a conference could be the cornerstone of peace efforts.

The United States supports the general thrust of the resolution, and does not want to use the veto afforded each of the five permanent members of the Security Council. But tolerating mention of a conference, diplomats argue, could appear to be a capitulation to Iraq, which has sought to link resolution of the Gulf crisis to a broad Middle East settlement, while the United States insists it withdraw unconditionally from Kuwait.

Western and Arab diplomats said the United States was seeking to shift mention of the conference to a separate, non-binding

statement by the council president or in the introduction to the resolution.

Non-aligned council members — Colombia, Cuba, Malaysia and Yemen — were resisting any dilution.

The controversial passage calls for an international peace conference on the Middle East, "at an appropriate time, properly structured" — language which restates standing U.S. policy.

If approved, it would be the first time the Security Council ever has called for a Mideast peace conference.

A recent proposal favoured by the West calls for a council president's statement, which must be supported by consensus, in which the members "categorically reject the concept that there is any linkage between events in the Arab-Israeli conflict and Iraq's aggression against Kuwait."

The members also would "agree that an international conference, at an appropriate time, properly structured, could facilitate efforts to achieve a negotiated settlement and lasting peace in the Arab-Israeli conflict."

# Israel wants U.S. to explain plans in Gulf

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy said Monday Israel should demand that the United States explain its plans for dealing with Iraq.

Levy, speaking hours before Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir was scheduled to meet President George Bush in Washington, told a parliamentary meeting U.S. involvement in the Gulf had increased the "danger" to Israel.

"It was not Israel that brought them (U.S. forces) to the Gulf. They came there to defend their own interests," Levy was quoted as saying by participants at the meeting of the foreign affairs and defence committee.

"Their coming to the Gulf made the threat against Israel 10 times more acute," he said, noting Iraq had vowed to strike at the Jewish state if U.S. forces attack.

"In these conditions it is right to demand of the Americans that they tell us as clearly as possible what their intentions are," Levy said.

Washington, leading an anti-Iraq coalition that includes Arab countries, has told the Israeli government to keep a low profile during the Gulf crisis.

Some Israeli officials have expressed public concern that Iraq might strike a deal with Washington in their proposed talks that would allow Baghdad to retain its military power.

The United States has promised not to attack Iraq if it withdraws its troops from Kuwait. The United Nations has set a Jan. 15 deadline for the withdrawal.

"If Saddam Hussein retains his arsenal of conventional and non-conventional weapons, do we still

have to continue to maintain a low profile?" Levy asked.

Israeli officials fear an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait that leaves Iraq's million-man army intact would merely delay an inevitable military showdown, while giving Iraq more time to develop a nuclear weapon.

Bush administration officials said Sunday the United States wants international controls over Iraq's nuclear weapons and other advanced arms once the confrontation between the two countries is resolved.

Secretary of State James Baker and National Security Adviser Brent Scowcroft spelled out the American vision of the Gulf's military future Sunday. They also demanded that Baker's anticipated meeting with Saddam be held by Jan. 3.

The Iraqi leader has offered to meet Baker in Baghdad on Jan. 12 — three days before the United Nations deadline.

Iraq's U.N. ambassador, Abdul Amir Al Anbani, would not rule out a Saddam-Baker session by Jan. 3. But he warned that if fighting erupts, American losses in one day could surpass total U.S. casualties during the Vietnam war, when more than 55,000 Americans died.

"That means any war would make really that region of the world simply hell, and perhaps also the rest of the globe into a crisis which I don't know whether we will recover from it or not," Anbani said on NBC's "Meet the Press."

Baker argued that a meeting with Saddam after Jan. 3 would not give Iraq enough time to

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# Soviets may get American food aid

HOUSTON (AP) — Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze asked Monday for food and other assistance to help get his country through the winter. Secretary of State James Baker promised a sympathetic response.

"As far as humanitarian assistance, medical assistance, food and that sort of thing, I know the president will be forthcoming with respect to trying to help," Baker said at brief news conference as he opened two days of talks in his hometown with Shevardnadze.

The two are trying to conclude a treaty to reduce U.S. and Soviet long-range nuclear missiles, bombers and submarines by about 30 per cent.

Once the treaty is done, President George Bush hopes to go to Moscow to sign it at a summit with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.

Technical details must be cleared up first. A summit before February is now considered unlikely.

Shevardnadze, posing for pictures with Baker at the edge of a gazebo on the lawn of a fashionable hotel, was straightforward about his country's economic plight.

"We would appreciate, if possible, some food supplies," he said in reply to a question from a reporter.

And, he added, the Soviets would like to receive from the United States "efficient economic cooperation."



# FAO appeals for relief food for Sudan famine

By Didrikke Schanche  
The Associated Press

NAIROBI — The U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) Monday appealed for 1.3 million tons of food for Sudan, where it said major and immediate relief is needed to avert calamitous famine.

Estimates of the number of people at risk vary from three million to 11 million, and a spokesman for Western donor countries was reported Monday to have offered their help.

But Sudan's military government, which acknowledges a "food gap" of a million tons of grain, said Monday it would accept food donations if the junta is in charge of transportation and distribution.

That likely would be unacceptable at least to the United States, which has criticised the government for alleged attacks on grain stocks to keep them from areas controlled by southern rebels.

The FAO said one million tons of food aid is needed to compensate for failure of the 1990-91 harvest. Another 300,000 tons is necessary to replenish food stocks left at "dangerously low levels" after last year's poor harvest, the U.N. agency said.

In addition, Sudan will need fuel and logistic support to distribute the food, FAO said in a news release distributed to news agencies in Nairobi.

The appeal, based on a recent FAO crop assessment throughout Sudan, is the latest in a string of

calls for help to vast, impoverished country.

On Sunday, Sudan's military strongman, Omar Hassan Al-Bashir, met in Khartoum with British Ambassador Allen Ramsey, who was representing Western donor countries.

The official Sudan News Agency quoted Ramsey Monday as expressing western willingness to provide food for famine victims.

But the agency quoted Bashir as saying Sudan would welcome aid only if it were transported and distributed by the government, potentially a serious complication. In previous relief operations for southern Sudan, Western donors and the United Nations have insisted on at least partial involvement in transportation and distribution to make sure the aid gets to the affected people.

Western relief officials and diplomats in Khartoum say the famine, which will reach its peak next spring, could affect as few as three million or as many as seven million Sudanese.

In Washington, however, the director of the U.S. Committee for Refugees, Roger Winter, put the figure at 11 million, or almost half Sudan's population. At congressional hearings in October, he said the country faces a famine of "biblical dimensions."

Western relief officials and donors repeatedly have urged Bashir to announce a state of emergency. That would facilitate the organisation of an international appeal and the launching of a relief operation.

The Food and Agriculture Organisation has promised 25,000 tons of wheat, only 19,000 of which have been delivered. No other donors have made any promises of aid for the disaster.

All of Sudan except parts of the east will be struck by the drought. The most severe shortages are expected in the west, particularly in north Darfur and north Kordofan regions, and in the Red Sea hills of northeastern Sudan, the FAO report said.

"Already prices on local markets have risen to levels which are beyond the purchasing power of large sections of the population," the report said. "A major and immediate relief effort is required to avert large-scale food shortages and human suffering in the coming months."

In marking the appeal, FAO noted impoverished Sudan's lack of foreign exchange and said "substantial donor pledges are needed immediately."

It is the second consecutive year of severe food deficits in Sudan from lack of rain. The harvest also has been badly hindered for years by a civil war in the south that has lasted almost eight years, has killed hundreds of thousands of southerners and displaced as many more.

Last year, the United Nations launched an ambitious programme to deliver large amounts of relief food and supplies to Sudan's south. It says the relief operation averted a repeat of 1988 when an estimated 250,000 people died.

## Church councils urge negotiated Gulf solution

NICOSIA (AP) — Christian church leaders from Europe and the Middle East urged a negotiated settlement of the Gulf crisis Monday, declaring the war option should be rejected.

A conference of representatives of the European Conference of Churches and the Middle East Council of Churches (MECC) also criticised the adoption of "double standards" in dealing with the Gulf crisis and other outstanding Middle East problems.

A joint communiqué at the end of a four-day meeting of the two church groups urged the linking of the Gulf crisis to the settlement of the Palestinian and other outstanding regional conflicts.

The communiqué summarised the conclusions of the 21 prelates and other delegates attending the meeting on various regional issues.

On the Gulf crisis the communiqué said that "both organisations are on record for emphatically rejecting the inevitability of war and its tragic consequences."

"They also demanded that foreign powers not only act in protection of their interests in oil and power. They should primarily do so by considering the despair and frustrations of the people of the Middle East, caused by consecutive regional conflicts, which frustrate their aspirations for peace."

"This demands correctives to double standards and self-centred policies in the region."

"Both organisations urged that negotiated solutions should be

relentlessly pursued, in compliance with international law and the relevant U.N. resolutions."

The communiqué said that "the Palestine-Israel conflict remained a major concern for the two organisations."

It added that "the current Gulf crisis, instead of marginalising the Palestine problem, has once more highlighted the urgency of its solution."

The communiqué urged the staging of Palestinian-Israeli negotiations and the early staging of a U.N.-sponsored international peace conference.

"Violence and bloodshed in the occupied territories have been alarmingly worsening and measures for the protection of the population should urgently be established in accordance with the appropriate Geneva conventions."

The communiqué said the concern of the two organisations for war-divided Cyprus "was exemplified by their decision to meet on the island." The communiqué supported the reunification of the island, whose northern part has been under Turkish occupation since 1974.

It welcomed the improvement in Lebanon following the demilitarisation of Beirut.

Gabriel Habib, the general secretary of the MECC, said a delegation of the American Council of Churches will be arriving in Cyprus Friday en route to Iraq. He said the American church group also rules out the war option urging a peaceful negotiated settlement of the Gulf crisis.

## Iran calls for anti U.S. protests at Haj

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran's spiritual leader Monday called on Muslims around the world to stage anti-American protests at the annual pilgrimage to holy shrines in Saudi Arabia, Tehran Radio reported.

Ayatollah Ali said Muslims on the June Haj to the holy cities of Mecca and Medina should "express anger" at the U.S. military buildup in Saudi Arabia.

Khamenei told delegates to a Palestinian conference that "this point must be impressed on all Muslims who will perform the Haj this year: They should express their anger at the presence of the enemy in Islamic territory, and demonstrate their anti-American feelings."

The Iranians have condemned Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, but they have also denounced the presence of the U.S.-led Western forces in the region.

Referring to hostile sentiments in a number of Muslim countries, Khamenei said that "slogans heard against America in Tunisia, Algeria and other Muslim countries round the world, must be repeated in this year's Haj."

The Iranians insist that such demonstrations are an integral part of the pilgrimage, which brings some two million pilgrims to holy cities each year.

The Saudi government put down an attempted protest by Iranian pilgrims at the 1987 Haj. Some 400 people, most of them Iranians, died in clashes with Saudi police.

Iran, objecting to the killings, and the imposition of a quota that cut the number of Iranian pilgrims allowed by the Saudis to 55,000 each year — one third the previous year's — severed ties with Riyadh.

The Iranians have boycotted the Haj ever since.

But Iranian officials have said they will take part in this year's Haj, provided the anti-American protests are allowed, and the restriction on numbers lifted.

## U.S. may need up to \$20b more for Gulf — report

NEW YORK (R) — The U.S. Defence Department may have to seek up to \$20 billion in new funds from Congress next month to cover the rising costs of its Gulf military deployment, the New York Times reported Monday.

The costs of the deployment have roughly doubled, with plans to add up to 200,000 new troops to Gulf forces, the Times said, quoting senior Defence Department and White House officials who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Pentagon officials could not be reached for comment on the report.

Before the additional troops were ordered to the area last month, it was anticipated Congress would have to allocate about \$5 billion to pay for the U.S. presence in the Gulf during the fiscal year that began on Oct. 1.

The officials told the Times that the Pentagon might have to

seek from \$10 billion to \$20 billion in extra spending authority from Congress.

They said the latest figures reflected estimates that Gulf operations could cost as much as \$31 billion and that contributions from allies might offset less than half the total.

Before President George Bush announced plans to send additional forces to the Gulf on Nov. 3, the Pentagon had forecast that the Gulf deployment could cost \$15 billion in fiscal 1991.

The officials said a complete accounting of the operation's cost would be sent to Congress by Dec. 25. The new session of Congress convenes in January.

They stressed that the numbers being assembled were tentative and that many factors, from sudden war to a change in oil prices, could send them rising or plummeting.

## Algerian prime minister to face confidence vote

ALGIERS (R) — Algerian Prime Minister Mouloud Hamrouche faces a vote of confidence in parliament Tuesday but is almost certain to survive, deputies said.

Hamrouche, winding up two days of parliamentary debate on controversial economic reforms aimed at creating a market economy, urged deputies to unite behind them.

"If the government is to continue the reforms it needs your support," Hamrouche said. "I hope you will give it a vote of confidence."

National Assembly President Abdel Aziz Belkhadem set the vote Tuesday to give deputies time to prepare their cases in accordance with parliamentary regulations.

Virtually all deputies are from Hamrouche's ruling National Liberation Front (FLN) but a minority opposes his crash programme to shift to a market economy next year after two decades of socialist central planning.

One of the few dissenting

voices, Abdulkader Merbah of the newly created opposition Movement for Justice and Democracy, told the assembly Saturday the reforms had yielded no concrete results.

"There is an unbridled liberalism at the expense of simple citizens," he said.

But deputies said Hamrouche had the support of some 240 of the 295 deputies, all of them elected as FLN nominees in 1987.

Algeria is in the throes of transition to multi-party democracy and the first free general elections are due next year.

Hamrouche promised new measures to liberalise foreign trade next year, ending a monopoly in imports long held by state trading agencies, and said all but 22 of the country's state firms, numbering nearly 500, would be autonomous by year-end.

The economic reforms launched in the mid-1980s after two decades of central planning gave the state firms autonomous budgets and decision-making powers.

## Compromise, not confrontation — Carter

NEW YORK (R) — The United States should try compromise rather than confrontation when it holds meetings with Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein, former President Jimmy Carter has written in an essay in Newsweek magazine.

"Meetings will not be productive; they will likely lead to war," Carter wrote in the issue appearing Monday. "We must have some flexibility."

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker was expected to meet Saddam in the next few weeks if the two sides can agree on an acceptable date. He has said he will not negotiate on a U.N. Security Council resolution authorising the use of military force if Iraq

fails to pull out of Kuwait by Jan. 15.

Carter said he stood firm on the fundamental U.S. demand for Iraqi withdrawal but added that "to take a step towards peace, some of the goals of both sides will have to be considered. They are not necessarily incompatible."

Carter said such U.S. demands as elimination of the Iraqi war machine and the payment of reparations to Kuwait would be "tantamount to declarations of war."

He said President George Bush would violate the U.S. constitution by ordering military action without congressional approval. "If congressional action is not

appropriate in this grave crisis, with the factors widely debated and well understood... then our founding fathers wasted their precious words," he wrote.

### Australian view

A Gulf war is inevitable if Iraq does not withdraw from Kuwait by Jan. 15, Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke said Monday.

"If (it) doesn't withdraw then it is obviously... inevitable that force will be used by the international community," Hawke told a Foreign Correspondent's Association lunch.

"And my government — and I am pleased to see with the clear

support of the Australian people — has made the decision that if that is necessary Australia will be part of it."

However, Hawke added: "...My belief still is that the Gulf crisis will be settled without war. If that happens... it will happen because the world has shown its determination that aggression will not go rewarded."

Hawke said he was convinced Bush did not want war. "I am convinced he would profoundly prefer that this matter be solved peacefully."

Australia has about 600 sailors onboard the destroyer Brisbane and frigate Sydney taking part in the international naval blockade of Iraq.

In New York Carter repeated Monday the United States would probably have to budge somewhat in its dealings with Iraq over the Gulf crisis.

"In any so-called effort to end the war, there has to be a neutral side," Carter told reporters at New York University.

"We may not get everything that we want, but Iraq may not get everything that it wants either. A peaceful solution is just so important here."

Carter was in New York to present the second annual Carter-Menil Human Rights Award to Sri Lankan activist Suriya Wickremasinghe and Guatemalan human rights leader Amilcar Mendez Urizar.

## \$6.2m EC aid for Palestinian hospitals

BRUSSELS (AP) — The European Community (EC) Commission said Monday it approved emergency aid for eight hospitals in the Israeli occupied territories which have been hit by a cash shortage during the Gulf crisis.

The commission said it provided \$6.2 million in humanitarian aid to keep the hospitals going for the next six months.

The EC Commission has been providing humanitarian aid to populations in the Gulf region since Iraq invaded Kuwait Aug. 2.

The hospitals in the occupied territories were funded by Arab countries in the Gulf region, but the international crisis has largely put an end to that, the commission said in a statement.

## Palestinian revolt begins to bite

By Miriam Jordan  
Reuters

TEL AVIV — Residents of Israel's most cosmopolitan city once boasted that they were unaffected by a Palestinian revolt in the occupied territories only 30 kilometres away. But life in Tel Aviv has now changed.

A spate of bomb and knife attacks has brought the fear and resentment long known in occupied Jerusalem, where car burning and stone throwing have been routine during the three-year revolt.

As the country's centre of entertainment, with Mediterranean beaches and thriving nightlife, Tel Aviv has long been a refuge from the religious and political tensions in Jerusalem.

But as in the Holy City only a 45-minute drive away, some Tel Aviv residents are now carrying weapons. Others are hoping for a day when Israelis and Palestinians are separated for good.

"Tel Aviv is not what it used

to be. It's not Jerusalem, but the intifada has arrived here," said Shmuel Cohen, as he biked along the city's beachfront promenade on a balmy Sunday morning.

"It all looks wonderful, the sea and the sun... but remember a bomb exploded right here and a Canadian girl died," he said.

The beach had been packed with bathers on a warm July day when a bomb exploded and killed the Canadian tourist.

Early this month, three Arabs boarded a bus in a Tel Aviv suburb and stabbed to death a Jew. They wounded three other passengers before one of them was killed by a policeman.

The night before, unknown assailants tossed a hand grenade into a crowd in the heart of Tel Aviv's main avenue on a Saturday evening. Fortunately it did not explode.

Sigal Toplin gave her 15-year-old son a knife for protection after a recent stabbing.

"If they stab my boy is he

supposed to just stare into their big eyes. Better in jail than in a grave. I carry a knife too," she said, pulling out a shiny weapon from her purse.

The surge in Arab-Jewish violence is convincing many in Tel Aviv, from the left and right, that the best solution is for Israelis and Palestinians to be separated.

An opinion poll last month showed 53 per cent of Israelis favoured a peace built on separating them from Palestinians — 33 per cent by leaving the occupied territories and 20 per cent by getting the Arabs out.

"We may as well close the territories off. Let them live there, do what they want there — anything to give us peace of mind," said Lina Svila, a 63-year-old Tel Aviv shopkeeper.

Svila has always favoured a land for peace deal, but Toplin, an avowed hardliner, echoed the same view.

"Let them stay on their side. We'll stay on ours. Seal those territories so we can live freely in our own country," Toplin

said.

"The authorities keep telling us to be alert, alert. Just separate us. Why should we have to worry about suspicious objects in the streets, on buses, in envelopes?"

The intifada enters its fourth year with Israelis fearing that lack of progress towards their goal of independence, will turn increasingly to lethal weapons in their struggle.

The only people at ease in Tel Aviv on an unusually warm, sunny December day were two recent Soviet immigrants.

"Intifada, what's that? I don't know anything about it. Oh the Palestinians. No I don't worry yet," one of them said.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir calls it a "miracle" that more Jews came out of the Soviet Union this year than in the last 20 years.

"If the present rate continues, we shall receive one million Jews from the Soviet Union and other countries within three to four years."

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

### JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

**PROGRAMME ONE**  
15:30 ..... Koran  
15:40 ..... Programme review  
15:45 ..... Children programmes  
15:50 ..... News in French  
16:00 ..... Local programme  
18:10 ..... Programme review  
19:45 ..... News in Arabic  
20:00 ..... News in Arabic  
20:30 ..... Arabic series  
21:30 ..... Programme review  
21:40 ..... Local programme  
23:00 ..... News summary in Arabic

**PROGRAMME TWO**  
18:00 ..... Cartoons  
18:10 ..... L'école des fans  
18:50 ..... News in French  
19:15 ..... Carnet de Notes  
19:30 ..... News in Hebrew  
20:00 ..... News in Arabic  
20:30 ..... Charles in Charge  
21:10 ..... Documentary: "The New Wind of Change"  
22:00 ..... News in English  
22:30 ..... French feature film

### PRAYER TIMES

04:58 ..... Fajr  
06:20 ..... (Sunrise) Dhuha  
11:29 ..... Dhuhur  
14:14 ..... 'Asr  
16:37 ..... Maghreb  
17:59 ..... 'Isha

### CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church, Sweifish Tel. 810740.  
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785, 685326.  
St. Joseph Church Tel. 634590.  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.  
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757  
Terrasanta Church Tel. 622366  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 635541.  
Anglican Church Tel. 623383, Tel. 628543.  
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.  
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.  
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.  
Armenian International Church Tel. 685326.  
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295.  
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 654932.

### WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.  
It will be fair with southeasterly moderate winds. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

### AL SHARAA' pharmacy

Min./max. temp.  
Aqaba ..... 5 / 19  
Aqaba ..... 13 / 24  
Deserts ..... 3 / 21  
Jordan Valley ..... 14 / 24

### EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre ..... 637111  
Civil Defence Department ..... 661111  
Civil Defence immediate  
Rescue ..... 630341  
Civil Defence Emergency ..... 199  
Fire Brigade ..... 192, 621111, 637777  
Blood Bank ..... 775121  
Highway Police ..... 843402  
Traffic Police ..... 896300  
Public Security Department ..... 630221  
Hotel Complaints ..... 605800  
Price Complaints ..... 661176  
Water and Sewerage  
Complaints ..... 897467  
Aqaba Municipality  
Complaints ..... 787111  
Telephone Information  
(directory assistance) ..... 121  
Overseas Calls ..... 010230  
Central Aqaba Telephone  
Repairs ..... 623101  
Abdali Telephone Repairs ..... 661101

### Jordan Television

Radio Jordan ..... 773111  
Water Authority ..... 680100  
Jordan Electricity Authority ..... 815615  
Electric Power  
Company ..... 636381  
RJ Flight Information ..... 08-53200  
Queen Alia Int. Airport ..... 08-53200

### HOSPITALS

AMMAN:  
Hussein Medical Centre ..... 81381323  
Khaldi Maternity, J. Amn. .... 642416  
Akileh Maternity, J. Amn. .... 642412  
Jabal Amman Maternity ..... 642362  
Malhas, J. Amman ..... 636140  
Palestine, Shmeesani ..... 6647174  
Shmeesani Hospital ..... 669151  
University Hospital ..... 845846  
Al-Muhsen Hospital ..... 6672279  
Al-Abul, Abdali ..... 6641646  
Italian, Al-Muhsen ..... 7771013  
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh ..... 7751126  
Army, Marja ..... 89761175  
Queen Alia Hospital ..... 60234050  
Amal Hospital ..... 674155  
ZARQA:  
Zarqa Govt. Hospital ..... (09)983323  
Zarqa National Hospital ..... (09)991071

### FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT  
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

### ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)  
06:15 ..... London (RJ)  
11:30 ..... Belgrade (RJ)  
11:40 ..... Tripoli (RJ)  
12:00 ..... Cairo (RJ)  
12:15 ..... Vienna, Frankfurt (RJ)  
12:45 ..... Vienna (RJ)  
13:00 ..... Rome, Madrid (RJ)  
13:15 ..... Geneva, Brussels (RJ)  
13:15 ..... Paris (RJ)  
20:45 ..... Bahrain, Doha (RJ)  
21:00 ..... Dharan (RJ)  
21:20 ..... Jeddah (RJ)  
21:45 ..... Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)  
22:15 ..... Laraca (RJ)  
22:15 ..... Damascus (RJ)  
06:45 ..... Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)  
09:15 ..... Muscat (RJ)  
10:15 ..... Abu Dhabi (RJ)  
10:30 ..... Cairo (RJ)  
10:30 ..... Dubai (RJ)  
10:45 ..... Jeddah, Aqaba (RJ)  
10:55 ..... Bahrain, Doha (RJ)  
16:00 ..... Cairo (RJ)

17:00 ..... Montreal, New York (RJ)  
19:00 ..... Belgrade (RJ)  
20:45 ..... Tripoli (RJ)  
21:30 ..... Frankfurt, Copenhagen (RJ)  
21:45 ..... Rome (RJ)  
22:30 ..... Rome (RJ)

### Other Flights (Terminal 2)

06:20 ..... Beirut (ME)  
13:20 ..... Moscow (SU)  
13:25 ..... Riyadh (SV)  
18:20 ..... Cairo (MS)

### DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)  
06:15 ..... London (RJ)  
11:30 ..... Belgrade (RJ)  
11:40 ..... Tripoli (RJ)  
12:00 ..... Cairo (RJ)  
12:15 ..... Vienna, Frankfurt (RJ)  
12:45 ..... Vienna (RJ)  
13:00 ..... Rome, Madrid (RJ)  
13:15 ..... Geneva, Brussels (RJ)  
13:15 ..... Paris (RJ)  
20:45 ..... Bahrain, Doha (RJ)  
21:00 ..... Dharan (RJ)  
21:20 ..... Jeddah (RJ)  
21:45 ..... Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)  
22:15 ..... Laraca (RJ)  
22:15 ..... Damascus (RJ)  
06:45 ..... Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)  
09:15 ..... Muscat (RJ)  
10:15 ..... Abu Dhabi (RJ)  
10:30 ..... Cairo (RJ)  
10:30 ..... Dubai (RJ)  
10:45 ..... Jeddah, Aqaba (RJ)  
10:55 ..... Bahrain, Doha (RJ)  
16:00 ..... Cairo (RJ)

### Other Flights (Terminal 2)

06:15 ..... Beirut (ME)

14:40 ..... Riyadh (SV)  
15:00 ..... Moscow (SU)  
19:05 ..... Cairo (MS)

### MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg  
Apple ..... 550 / 430  
Banana ..... 500 / 450  
Banana (Mukammal) ..... 450 / 400  
Beans ..... 280 / 220  
Cabbage ..... 100 / 50  
Carrot ..... 180 / 120  
Cauliflower ..... 120 / 80  
Corn ..... 180 / 120  
Cucumbers (large) ..... 150 / 100  
Cucumbers (small) ..... 300 / 250  
Dates ..... 500 / 400  
Eggplant ..... 200 / 150  
Figs ..... 500 / 300  
Garlic ..... 1400 / 1000  
Grapes ..... 550 / 450  
Lemon ..... 200 / 150  
Mango ..... 180 / 120  
Marrow (large) ..... 200 / 150  
Marrow (small) ..... 200 / 150  
Onion (dry) ..... 240 / 180  
Onion (green) ..... 200 / 150  
Okra ..... 600 /







## Jordan Times

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Established 1979

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## Where linkage ends!

IF LINKING the Gulf crisis with the Arab-Israeli conflict is taboo to Washington, one wonders if the U.S. would still refuse to link the issue of Iraq's military machine with that of Israel and Iran. Up till now, President George Bush and his secretaries of state and defence have been sounding alarm bells at Baghdad's alleged nuclear capability and its chemical and biological weapons without uttering as much as a whisper about Israeli proven nuclear and thermonuclear weapons, not to mention its chemical and biological weapons also. It would not take much imagination to notice that the U.S. concern about Iraq's military might is undermined by its wanton silence about Tel Aviv's nuclear military prowess.

The Arab side whether for or against Iraq over the Kuwaiti crisis cannot but take judicious notice of Israel's deal with U.S. to assume a low profile over the Gulf crisis on the assumption that Washington will wage war against Iraq and will destroy its military machine on behalf of Tel Aviv. No wonder there is panic in Israel now at the prospect of a peaceful settlement of the Gulf crisis because the Israeli leaders have been betting heavily on war breaking out there, not for the implementation of the U.N. Security Council resolutions on Kuwait but rather to reduce Iraq to a meagre power unable to raise its head against Israel. As a matter of fact Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy did not hide his anguish at the turn of events in the Gulf and has recently threatened to go it alone and destroy Iraq's military installations.

Surely Washington would want to be evenhanded at least on the issue of the proliferation of mass destructive weapons in the Middle East region. It is not only Israel and Iraq that one needs to address over such a grave matter but also the rest of the countries in this region and elsewhere. The best security for all the countries in this part of the world therefore is to have all the region's states first ratify the non-proliferation treaty on nuclear weapons and then proceed to realise a comprehensive peace accords on all contentious conflicts and disputes between the various states. By simply hammering on Iraq's conventional and non-conventional arsenals in isolation from the military threats of other countries in the region, Washington and Tel Aviv are simply making the mission of securing permanent security and stability in the area that much more removed from the realm of the possible. In this vein, the U.N. Security Council is called upon to address this issue from head to toe in the nearest possible time. There is no excuse whatsoever to maintain the on-going naked discrimination against Iraq as pursued by the U.S. and Israel and the U.N. Security Council is the very U.N. organ that can address this festering problem and prevent it from escalating to new heights.

### ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Al Ra'i daily expressed surprise and disbelief at President Bush's statement that pulling out American diplomats from Kuwait would make it easier for Washington to decide on launching aggression on Iraq. This is a disgusting attitude because it clearly manifests the real nature of the president of the United States who is simply considering the lives of a handful of diplomats to be as far higher in value than hundreds of thousands of people who might get killed in the fighting, said the paper. But one thing is clear: that the American president has displayed his utmost hatred and contempt of the Arab Nation and his disregard to their safety and their future generations, the paper added. It seems that when Bush wants to take a decision to go to war he does not care about other people's views or feelings, if by so doing he is serving his country's selfish interests no matter what blood is to be shed in the process, the paper continued. The paper said that Bush wants these foreign nationals who are now leaving Iraq and Kuwait to be reminded throughout their lives that it was their departure that cleared the way for the American forces to launch aggression and he wants them to feel guilty at this thought.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily criticises the Ministry of Education for its policy of transferring men and women teachers to remote areas away from their homes, making it difficult for them to accept the teaching posts because of the lack of convenience in remote areas of Jordan. Those teachers who come from Irbid are appointed in areas around Karak, and those of Salt are transferred to Mafrak for no justifiable reason except that the ministry abides by what it calls certain procedures which it says are based on established principles which of course very few of us are aware of, Fakhri Kaware notes. He says that he knows of a woman teacher working and living in Irbid but whose husband has been appointed to work in Karak; and that such instances are abound in the Kingdom. The writer also refers to another instance in which a woman teacher was appointed in a very remote region within the Karak Governorate but that she has to wait for a long time on the Amman-Aqaba highway for a car to pick her up and drop her at a point where she can proceed to Qatranah and vice versa, encountering many hardships in bad weather. There are numerous examples of the hardships which men and women teachers face, largely due to lack of a proper distribution programme on the part of the ministry, which more often than not, fails to help teachers feel quite comfortable so that they can attain better results. If the new educational process being launched by the ministry is to see the light, the writer adds, teachers' needs must be met.

Al Dustour daily lauded His Majesty King Hussein's initiative by calling for dialogue among Arab countries to pave the way for a peaceful settlement to the Gulf crisis. The paper said that the three principles on which the King based his initiative together create a solid foundation for a political settlement that would stave off a devastating war. The King has called for an end to inter-Arab differences, the end of attempts by some to advocate sedition, and an end to propaganda campaign that can benefit no one except the common enemy, the paper noted.

# Is Bush ushering in a macro-intifada?

By Mohammad Zakaria

JUST before the outbreak of the intifada many of us were plagued by a debilitating sense of despondency. The PLO was in Tunis. The Palestinian people were fatalistically resigned to their destiny. The "boys" of the American consulate in Jerusalem (in Birzeit University and elsewhere) seemed to be in full command. Israel was putting the final touches to a transfiguration of the autonomy plan. Political science had put a permanent seal on the Palestine question.

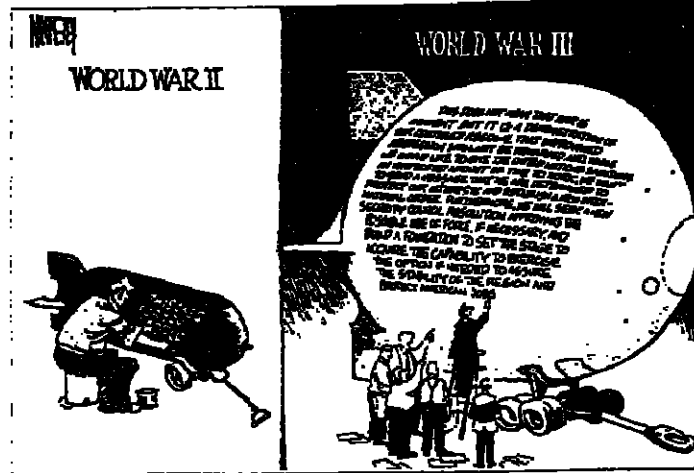
But then there was this Gaza who on Dec. 8, 1987 decided that enough was enough. He had had no training in political science or revolutionary theory. Most probably he happened to be there on a routine shopping chore. But without realising it, he ignited a people's uprising for their freedom and independence, in the process forcing the term "intifada" into the everyday use of the most conservative lexicons, a fact that is taken by many well-intentioned observers as a reliable measure of the intifada's originality, viability and success.

The American mass media almost unanimously used the term "riots" to refer to the intifada in its earlier days (thus staging a spectacular display of the oft vague term of the "unity in diversity"). After a stern realisation that the kids meant business, the media replaced "riots" by the rather favourable "uprising". Later on, as it became clear that the Palestinian people's struggle for freedom was here to stay, the term "intifada" came to be used cheerfully by friend and foe alike, as if the semantic structure of outer reality had since time immemorial been sliced to accommodate it. This has been one rare instance when a non-disparaging Arabic term gained international currency.

The point to be made of this is that the eruption of the intifada and the events that ensued had not been foreseen by any of the self-appointed au fairs of international (or internal) relations, but plans committing untold sums of money and hours of hard work had been drawn up with anything like the intifada being out of the question.

It seems that history is now repeating itself in a rather impatient manner. On Aug. 2, 1990, Saddam Hussein appeared as a dead ringer of that Gaza of Dec. 8, 1987. He had decided that he had it up to here with the existing Arab order.

It was not the \$45 billion debt of Iraq, as some analysts are pleased to argue. With some planning and patience Iraq could have managed to pay it back from its oil revenues. And you don't go to war because you are in debt. Everybody, including the U.S., seems to be embroiled to the umbilicus in debt nowadays, which makes you sometimes wonder who the debtors are. True, the IMF



officers cannot brave the wrath of Uncle Sam and invite his financial advisors to that little chat that has come to be the most dreaded feature of the U.N. after the Security Council. (Who can do that, with George Bush threatening to bomb out of existence anything that moves nowadays?) Still, a portentous session with the IMF officials would be a blessing compared to an all out war. And of course Iraq did not take over Kuwait because of that dispute over an oil field or because of Kuwait exceeding its oil quota. None of these is a rational cause belli. Usually they are handled through the Arab League or some other means.

It was rather this anachronistic Arab order. Saddam Hussein was in an intifada mode. The Gaza was acting up again, this time in Iraq.

The Gaza had started the mini-intifada. Saddam has launched his meso-intifada, and without intending it, George Bush might unleash the long-awaited macro-intifada.

What is the intifada syndrome? First there is the false impression that you are catering to your problems within the confines of the established order. However, you have all along realised that the enormity of the inequity of your cause just outsize any of the available orthodox accommodations. But you nevertheless press on, sometimes with genuine sincerity, your

peacefulness being mistaken for insouciance or even obsequiousness. These moments of non-intifada mode see you calculating your moves with a balance sheet in mind. There's your family, your job, your house and your future. You frown at your children when they engage in political activity. You are mad at your students when they don't do their homework.

But the intifada chemistry is in the meantime building up inside you according to a non-temporal schedule. And when the accountant mentality looks so obscene, when you mutate into a non-physical embodiment of your nation's dreams, systems analysts the world over are thrown in disarray trying to figure you out as you show up in an array of dazzling forms: as an anonymous ingredient in a car bomb; as a kitchen knife assaulting heavily armed soldiers, despite the fact that you are a mother of six children and in an advanced stage of pregnancy; or in any of the myriad forms with which we are by now too familiar. But the message the forms deliver is clear enough: the intifada neutralises all earthly concerns and unifies people of erstwhile ephemeral interests into a larger purpose that transcends time and space.

It is not always advisable to listen to your advisors who would like to instill in you a belief that the rest of the Arabs wouldn't count if it came to a real showdown with Iraq. We have heard delightful theories about the Arabs being no more than a loose aggregate of constantly feuding groups. John Glubb said a long time ago, and now it comes from the Saudi ambassador to Washington. It is amazing how the erudition of these experts can be put to shame by citing an example not from history, or political science, but from the world of sports! We all remember how in the 1978 Mondial, Tunis almost made it to the finals. The Tunisian victory reverberated across the Arab World in a way that shocked even the most fundamentalist Arab nationalists. There were celebrations almost everywhere. In Cairo, there was massive jubilation at midnight. None of this had been planned or foreseen.

What stage is the macro-intifada in now? Having characterised the spatio-temporal attributes of the intifada as being rather indeterminate, the only inexact advice we can offer George Bush is to "beware the idea of March". These might as well be the ideas of February, January, or even December. But whenever the macro-intifada comes, it will see the Arab masses pouring into the streets like fireballs. It will witness the vindication of the children, who will now triumphantly hide their parents for taking to the streets. Instructors will refer students who have done their homework for serious counselling.



The eerily empty streets of a refugee camp normally teeming with life, the grief of a mother, the hauntingly determined face of a young boy — there are a few of the images of the Palestinian intifada (UNRWA photo)

## Stones continue to carry the message of the oppressed

By Sami Aboudi  
Reuters

### OCCUPIED JERUSALEM

— Despite growing grassroots pressure to use guns Palestinian leaders insist stones, firebombs and international publicity are enough to end Israel's 23-year-old occupation of their land.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and the unified leadership of the uprising have resisted demands for the use of firearms in the revolt against Israeli rule, which began its fourth year on Dec. 9.

But calls for weapons from the youngsters — who daily confront armed Israeli soldiers and police with stones — have grown since the police shooting of 18 Arabs in a riot in Jerusalem's Al Aqsa mosque complex in October.

"Many people say they want Israelis to taste some of what they are facing every day," said a journalist reflecting the mood in the Gaza Strip where the revolt known as the intifada began.

Nearly 800 Arabs have been killed by security forces during the revolt which has devastated the Palestinian economy and left many Palestinians frustrated.

The calls to arms appear in street graffiti and clandestine leaflets circulated among the 1.75 million Arabs of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

A leaflet by the PLO-backed uprising leaders last week called for the "use of all forms of struggle" although it did not explicitly mention firearms.

Three Israelis were wounded shortly afterwards in two shooting incidents and a grenade attack. Some Israeli political and military commentators interpreted the leaflet as a shift in intifada strategy although Palestinian leaders denied this.

"It's the first time they call for opening fire," said one Israeli security source.

"They had refrained from (explicitly) calling for firearms due to the negative impact abroad. So they said it in a way the Palestinian people could understand it but which from outside is open to interpretation," the source said.

Ehud Ya'an, a Middle East expert and author of a book on the intifada said on Israel television the leaflet's wording was an unprecedented insinuation to use firearms.

Leading Palestinians reject this. Some say the leaflet was deliberately ambiguous to appease militants and keep the intifada on course.

"If the uprising leadership was to alter its policy, it would just say so explicitly. I really see no change in the strategy kept for three years, despite people's frustrations and anger," said Ghassan Al-Khatib, an academic and a leading nationalist figure.

Many Arabs believe firearms would provoke a crushing response from Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's government, the most right-wing in Israel's 42-year history.

"If you fight Israel with weapons, you are fighting them on their own terrain,"

said Hanan Mikhael-Ashrawi, a West Bank academic and nationalist figure.

Defence Minister Moshe Arens said last Thursday that Israel would "fight fire with fire" if activists used guns.

Palestinians also fear firearms would alienate international public opinion and shift the intifada from a popular revolt to a guerrilla campaign.

"The intifada is a human comprehensive, popular and state-building process. But military action would be limited to the few," said Mikhael-Ashrawi.

The leadership hopes that by staving off demands for armed struggle it can keep the door open to a negotiated settlement with Israel.

In 1980 the Palestine National Council, the Palestinian parliament-in-exile, recognised the state of Israel's right to exist and called for Arab-Israeli talks.

Peace efforts foundered in March after Israel rejected United States proposals for talks in Cairo but the Gulf crisis has once again put the Palestinian issue back on the international political agenda.

The West rejects efforts to link the Palestinian problem to the Gulf crisis but many countries in the U.S.-led anti-Iraq alliance have said the Arab-Israeli conflict must be tackled once Iraqi forces leave Kuwait.

The intifada leaders will do nothing to jeopardise a possible political solution in the meantime, Palestinians say.

## A good week in Chad ... for Libya

By Nicholas Kotch  
Reuters

The Libyan leader has helped a friendly regime to power in N'Djamena, recovered hundreds of prisoners of war and forced the closure of a secret U.S.-backed training camp for Libyan dissidents.

The Libyan leader has a friendly regime to power in N'Djamena, recovered hundreds of prisoners of war and forced the closure of a secret U.S.-backed training camp for Libyan dissidents.

Best of all, Qadhafi has racked up all of these net gains without firing a shot.

He has avoided the direct assaults on Chadian sovereignty that French and American military action crushed in the past.

Qadhafi has been astute. But the current strategic void in Africa has played into his hands, a senior French diplomat said.

The collapse of Soviet power around the world has drastically reduced the strategic significance of Chad, a vast but poor country which straddles the sensitive border between black and Arab Africa.

"Before, the West had to be far

**'Neither the United States nor France, Chad's former coloniser and still its European guardian, were willing to save their former ally.'**

more vigilant against Soviet satellites in Africa and notably Libya," the French diplomat said.

Hissene Habre, Chad's fiercely anti-Libyan president until he was deposed on Dec. 1 by Idriss Deby, paid the price for losing his strategic leverage while world attention focused on the Gulf.

Neither the United States nor France, Chad's former coloniser and still its European guardian, were willing to save their former ally.

"Habre was becoming a pretty difficult customer for all his friends," an African ambassador said.

His one-party government's slide into repressive policies lost

him the support of Chad's five million people and caused mass desertions from his once powerful army.

Libya largely financed the successful rebellion by Colonel Deby, whose Patriotic Salvation Movement (MPS) has wasted no time in forging friendly ties with Tripoli.

The biggest plus for Qadhafi was the instant closure of a top-secret training camp for several hundred former Libyan prisoners of war.

Herman Cohen, the senior U.S. official for Africa, has not denied that American military instructors took part in training the anti-Qadhafi commandos.

"These people (the Libyan dissidents) were an adjunct of the Chadian military so we obviously worked with them as well," Cohen told the British Broadcasting Corporation.

Under Habre, Libyan diplomats in N'Djamena were kept under close surveillance and could not leave the capital.

"Now they look as though they run the place," muttered one Chadian as he observed the Libyan officials who have flocked to

Deby turned out to be actively pro-Libyan.

"So far he has not crossed the line but clearly Qadhafi's strategy is to rush in as many people as possible to compromise Deby with the West," the analyst said.

Qadhafi's cherished dream of a regional alliance stretching between Tripoli, Khartoum — where the military government is a close ally — and N'Djamena has never looked closer to reality.

**'It is a tradition for Chadian warlords to take Libyan money when they are in exile and then to get tough with Qadhafi as soon as they take power,' said one French analyst.**

Such an alliance would be a perfect springboard for other Libyan ambitions in Africa, notably

in Niger and Mali where Tripoli is accused of sponsoring anti-government Tuareg nomads.

But Libyan efforts to install a surrogate president in Chad have never worked during 20 years of conflict.

"It is a tradition for Chadian warlords to take Libyan money when they are in exile and then to get tough with Qadhafi as soon as they take power," said one French analyst.

Deby, like his predecessor, knows that France has been a more reliable source of military aid economic aid than Libya. Deby has already submitted his first request for French cash to pay soldiers and civil servants.

Some members of Deby's provisional government are openly suspicious of Tripoli.

"You cannot choose your brother or your neighbor," Higher Education Minister Gata Mgothe said, adding it was perfectly normal to reestablish ties with Libya.

"But we have seen in the past that Libyans are not very ordered in their behaviour. They are naturally anarchic people," he said.



## Mechanism

(Continued from page 1)

peace process than a mechanical linkage.

In his speech the King appeared to draw a scenario for a comprehensive peace process starting with efforts to heal the Arab rift over the Gulf crisis and ending with a settlement of the Iraqi-Kuwaiti dispute and the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The first step, according to this scenario, will be the beginning of an inter-Arab dialogue to bridge the gap between the two camps in the Arab World divided over the Gulf crisis, particularly over the U.S.-led military build up in the region. This involves Arab mediation between Iraq and Saudi Arabia, as well as other bilateral contacts in an effort to reach a common negotiating Arab position to pressure the international community to address all of the problems in the region.

According to Jordanian officials, Jordan and Algeria are involved in mediation efforts between Riyadh and Baghdad. Even though Jordanian-Saudi relations have been strained by differences over the Gulf crisis, political analyst believe that Riyadh will accept a Jordanian role taking into consideration King Hussein's good offices in Baghdad and Jordan's opposition to the Iraqi takeover and annexation of Kuwait.

In his speech King Hussein indicated that Jordan's role as a mediator — between Baghdad and Washington or between Arab countries — was determined by Washington's embargo on dialogue with Baghdad. Therefore, Jordan now feels that the American decision to initiate contacts with Baghdad has paved the way for Jordan and other countries to play the role of mediator to find a common ground between the major protagonists.

According to political analysts, the ball is now in the court of the U.S. allies in the Arab World who so far have not made any tangible move since the American decision to start a dialogue with Iraq.

Arab diplomats said that contacts, through third parties, are already under way between Baghdad and Saudi Arabia, but these contacts have not yet reached the point of a specific agreement to allow a top-level meeting.

There have been indications, however, that Riyadh might be ready to consider the main Iraqi economic claims in Kuwait. The King on Sunday indicated that any settlement for the Gulf crisis should involve a compromise by both the Kuwaitis and the Iraqis.

Judging by the reaction of the state-run Iraqi media, which ran extensive quotes from King Hussein's speech, Baghdad has implicitly welcomed the Jordanian proposals despite its reiteration that it will not withdraw from Kuwait.

Arab officials close to the Iraqi leadership say that Baghdad should not be expected to make any sign of a compromise prior to the beginning of a real dialogue with the U.S.

"Baghdad is not even sure yet that the U.S. will be ready to negotiate; why should it make any concessions at this stage?" one Arab official

asked.

In the view of some Arab officials, an inter-Arab dialogue will boost prospects for the projected visit by Aziz to Washington to begin an Iraqi-American negotiations process.

The inter-Arab dialogue, according to analysts, is not expected to only involve mediation efforts but also to rally support for Iraqi demands for an American commitment towards a peace process — based on United Nations resolutions — for the Palestinian problem.

They said that Egypt and Saudi Arabia — the leaders of the U.S. allies in the Arab World — will be embarrassed to come across as opponents of an international peace conference especially if there were signs that Iraq was ready to withdraw from Kuwait.

But in order for an Arab consensus to emerge over a mechanism to start a comprehensive peace conference in the region, the analysts point out, there should be a unified approach on another sensitive issue: The presence of mass destruction weapons in the region.

Many Arab officials and analysts have feared, from the very outset of the eruption of the Gulf crisis, that the main objective of the U.S. will remain the destruction of the military power of Iraq either through a military strike or through a settlement involving reductions in Iraq's military arsenal.

Previous American proposals called for the elimination of chemical weapons in the region without any reference to the nuclear arsenal believed to be possessed by Israel.

In his speech King Hussein warned against a settlement which will strip Iraq of its military and technological power thus giving Israel the upper hand in the region and undermining prospects for a settlement of the Palestinian problem.

Therefore, analysts conclude, any settlement or peace plans for the region should call for the elimination of mass destruction weapons to prevent attempts to destroy Iraq's military power.

## Bethlehem

(Continued from page 1)

Palestinian revolt.

Clashes broke out between soldiers and stone-throwing youths in the occupied territories and at least 12 Palestinians were wounded by army gunfire, including a 11-year-old boy who was shot in the head, Arab reporters said.

In the port city of Haifa, comrades and family members buried paratrooper Guy Friedman, 19, the soldier killing in Sunday's bombing in Bethlehem.

Following the bombing, angry residents of the Jewish settlement of Beit Haggi in the West Bank blocked a main road calling for harsher army action against Palestinian activities, army radio said.

Settler leader Aharon Dom said the bombing should be used by the government as an impetus to expel Palestinian leaders.

Two jailed Palestinian leaders and a left-wing Israeli legislator have issued a joint statement saying Arab-Israeli violence will only increase if the peace process remains deadlocked.

## The facade of unity crumbles

By Nicholas Doughty

Reuter

BRUSSELS — NATO now seems certain to scrap all its battlefield nuclear weapons in Europe, closing a painful chapter that made a mockery of its public facade of unity.

But when the alliance's defence ministers pledged at a meeting in Brussels last week to update their nuclear arsenal as the ultimate "peace-keeper" there were clear signs that more disputes are on the way — despite the end of the cold war.

"The problem with nuclear weapons is that they are the most potent symbol of the destruction wrought by war," said one alliance diplomat. "Getting the public to accept new ones in the current East-West climate will be extremely tough."

The NATO ministers, meeting to plan major changes in alliance strategy now that the Warsaw Pact has crumbled, said the European nuclear stockpile, most of which is in Germany on the old frontline between East and West, would be slashed.

Although no final decision has been made, NATO Secretary-General Manfred Woerner made clear to reporters this would mean the end of ageing U.S. Lance missiles and nuclear artillery shells, which Washington has already decided not to modernise.

Their removal has long been sought by many European allies including Germany, which argued that the weapons — for battlefield use against Soviet troops and tanks — would devastate its own territory.

But in a discordant NATO summit last year Britain and the United States refused to bow to pressure to scrap all the systems, agreeing only to partial cuts.

NATO says it has already reduced the number of nuclear warheads in Europe — including aircraft bombs, missiles and artillery shells — by more than half in the last decade.

Getting rid of Lance and the shells would cut the current stockpile of more than 3,500

warheads by half again.

The military says they are virtually useless and the politicians say their deterrent value has gone, since Soviet troops are leaving the new democracies of Eastern Europe.

It now seems certain that the U.S. missiles will be scrapped in talks with Moscow expected to start next year and that the shells will be withdrawn, either unilaterally or as part of the negotiations.

In exchange, NATO would want the Soviet Union to eliminate its huge arsenal of short-range nuclear forces. But not everything is cut and dried.

## NEWS ANALYSIS

The defence ministers made clear that French short-range missiles and nuclear bombs for British aircraft would not be included in the talks, something Moscow has said it wants.

Moreover, they said members of the alliance must share the burden of stationing remaining weapons — a clear reference to plans for deploying a new generation of U.S. art-nu — launched missiles to Europe in the mid-1990s.

Although NATO has put off discussion of this sensitive issue for now, Bonn has already privately told the United States that it will not accept the new tactical air-to-surface missile (TASM) on German soil.

That, in turn, worries the United States which has a policy of "no nukes, no troops" — in other words, its soldiers would not stay in Europe unless the Europeans can give them the protection of nuclear weapons.

"Sooner or later, the Americans are going to want a firm commitment from European members on TASM," a NATO official said.

"Our worry is that this might spark public demonstrations on a large scale, cause a row in the alliance and damage our image while we're trying to prove to people that NATO, albeit a different NATO, should continue to exist."

## Benjedid

(Continued from page 1)

begin only after it withdrew from Kuwait.

"The Saudis have indicated that all issues, including Iraq's legitimate claims in its dispute with Kuwait, are negotiable but only after Saddam actually begins a withdrawal from Kuwait," said the source. "A public pledge from Baghdad that it would withdraw (from Kuwait) is simply not enough at this point in time as far as the Saudis are concerned."

One of the ideas floated by Benjedid, in consultations with other Arab leaders, is to arrange the sought-for Fahd-Saddam summit under a slightly wider Arab umbrella, grouping leaders of at least five other Arab states, including Jordan, Yemen, Syria, Tunisia and Oman (in its capacity as the serving chairman of the Gulf Cooperation Council) and possibly Egypt, according to the sources.

## Hardline

(Continued from page 1)

"We strongly say it to the United States: 'Get out of the Arabs' holy places in Mecca and Medina because you are provoking the feelings of Arabs and Muslims and exercising intimidation against their nation and their stability,'" Jassem said. "Mecca and Medina have become captives under your weapons."

Gulf Arab countries rule out making "concessions" to Iraq and did not discuss the possibility of a dialogue with Baghdad during two days of talks in Qatar, Foreign Minister Ali Al Khater said in Doha.

Khater spoke to reporters after foreign ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) ended two days of talks in the Qatari capital.

Khater, who chaired the meeting, stated that the idea of talks between Iraq and the council's members was definitely not discussed.

## Camels could be the answer

By Maria Olson

Reuter

MARALAL, Kenya — Camels could be the answer to the problems of drought and lack of work in the savannah-covered Maralal district in Kenya's dry and distant north.

The recent Maralal international camel derby, the first of its kind in this East African country, was designed to highlight the attractions of the "ship of the desert" to the local Samburu population and to promote tourism.

Dressed in red and blue wraps, the semi-nomadic Samburu, who survive on a diet of meat, milk and blood, are easy to spot as they wander with their sheep, goats and cattle across the sun-baked plains.

Like the Maasai people further south, the Samburu are pastoralists who travel great distances following seasonal rains and green pastures.

The 24-kilometre camel derby

was part of an attempt by local ranchers and international development agencies to convince the sceptical Samburu to make more use of the camel.

The animal is renowned for its ability to go for days without water.

"Camels are the most under-utilised animals in Kenya. You can eat their meat, drink their milk, wear their leather and use them for transport," said local ranch owner Jasper Evans.

A white Kenyan, Evans has spent the last 25 years in Maralal district, which lies 400 kilometres from Nairobi, building up his herd of more than 500 camels.

Using the animal seems to make so much sense in the semi-arid climate of Maralal, where 4,000 of Kenya's 60,000 camels live, that no one is exactly sure why it is not more popular with the Samburu.

A possible answer is that cattle breed faster than camels.

But in times of drought cows

dry up while camels continue producing milk.

Apart from a few gas stations and telephone lines that droop their way through the small town, traditional ways and modern living mix strangely in Maralal.

The town's blue and white hotels and colourful market make it one of the few oases of brightness in the washed-out countryside.

Cattle roam freely on the outskirts of the settlement while young warriors — known as Morans — loiter at street corners, leaning on spears.

The Morans are traditionally responsible for policing a tribal area, killing lions and cattle-raiding.

But lions are scarce in Maralal now, and cattle raiding has been abandoned along with tribal warfare, said Samburu Charles Leshore.

Leshore, 20, who chose to go to secondary school instead of joining the Morans, travelled

three hours by lorry to Maralal to hunt for a job — and watch the camel derby.

Hundreds of other Samburu converged on Maralal over the derby weekend, and organisers now plan to hold the event annually.

"Before, we didn't know they (camels) were good for transport. But now we see how other people use them, aside from using them as sources of meat or blood," Leshore said.

"Maybe when I go back to my place, I will make a saddle, buy a camel and bring tourists there to ride."

Meanwhile, the winner of Kenya's first camel derby can certainly use the 23,000 shillings (about \$1,000) he received as prize money.

But whether Abdi Salaam, a livestock handler who walked three days to take part in the race, will use his other prizes of a 25-day gorilla safari in Zaire and an air ticket to London or Bangkok remains to be seen.

## A prisoner of war and democracy

By Gail Appleson

Reuter

NEW YORK — A detained Irish guerrilla who has spent the last 10 years fighting the British army and the U.S. Justice Department is frightened at the thought his young nephew Sean might follow in his footsteps.

"It scares me that Sean is going to kill someone or be killed," said Joseph Doherty, his face filled with pain. "It's not him. It's not Joe Doherty. It's the environment."

"When Sean is in his mid twenties he's going to pick up a gun and he's going to carry it home. I don't want that to happen," Doherty, who now describes himself as a pacifist, was involved in the Irish Republican Army (IRA) struggle against British rule in Northern Ireland.

"I want it to end now," he said of the conflict that has divided Northern Ireland for over 20 years. Doherty was convicted in Belfast of killing a British military captain ten years ago and sentenced to a life term.

He escaped to New York where he was detained and has been held in prison for seven and a half years while seeking political

asylum.

His detention is one of the longest on record in the United States for an individual who had never been convicted of committing any crime here.

His efforts to stay in the United States have pitted federal courts against federal prosecutors. And his plight has attracted the attention and support of many congressmen and politicians — including New York Mayor David Dinkins, who has asked the U.S. Justice Department to let Doherty go.

Faced with that prospect, Doherty, who smiles readily, re-

captain was killed during a gunfight between the two groups.

Although a U.S. court decision held that Doherty is a political prisoner and cannot be extradited, prosecutors, citing America's friendship with Britain, want him deported as an illegal alien.

The Justice Department is expected to decide this month whether to ask the U.S. Supreme Court to intervene — a move that could extend litigation and keep Doherty in jail longer.

"He longs for a normal life — to be married and to have children. The only son among five children, Doherty said, 'I'm the one to carry on the family name. I'd rather worry about a mortgage than being carried out of here in a body bag'."

The city has even named a small plaza next to the prison after him.

The case began in 1980 when Doherty and three others were ordered by an IRA officer to ambush a convoy of five British soldiers in Belfast. The British

mains cautiously optimistic.

"The lesson is the system is working," he told Reuters, explaining that he believed when he was arrested here that he would be sent back immediately. "I was pessimistic. (I thought) Britain is an ally. They want me back."

## Israel

(Continued from page 1)

withdraw before the United Nations' Jan. 15 deadline. "If he is unwilling to pick any day in the 15 days between Dec. 20 and Jan. 3, I think it shows that he is not serious, or that he wants to somehow delay the U.N. deadline," Baker said on ABC-TV's "This Week with David Brinkley."

## Israel

(Continued from page 1)

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"What we would want to see is (Iraq's) weapons of mass destruction programmes or (its) nuclear, biological and chemical programmes under strict international supervision, so that (it) cannot develop that kind of capability," Scowcroft said.

Anbari said his country might accept a security arrangement that covered the entire Gulf region.

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# Beckenbauer critical of beaten Marseille

By Reuters

FRANZ Beckenbauer again discovered the problems of imposing German discipline on his Marseille "millionaires" as they collapsed 4-0 at second-placed Auxerre in the French League.

"I just can't understand it," he said after the French champions produced yet another lackluster performance in the small Burgundy town.

"What else can I do but keep on repeating the principles I like my players to follow?"

Marseille's second goal in five minutes in the 19th minute of the second half made it 4-0 and their manager, Claude Puel, said he was disappointed.

"The players did not respect the rules of the game," he said. "I asked them to play with discipline. They rushed forward like wild animals. It is not a football game, it is a brawl."

The only goal for Beckenbauer's Marseille retained their lead in the top division of French football.

Marseille's victory was a surprise, as they were expected to lose. They had lost their last three games.

Beckenbauer said, "I am very disappointed. I can't explain it. My players are not used to this kind of defeat. They are used to winning. They are not used to losing."

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Kovacs struck in the 49th, 51st and 52nd minutes to the delight of a record Auxerre crowd of 18,000.

Becken, playing for Auxerre on loan from Marseille, found himself alone with only Olmeta to beat and made the most of his opportunity.

Two minutes later, Seifo made it 4-0 with a fine header at the far post from a corner by Pascal Viala.

Virtually from the kick-off Kovacs stunned the Marseille defence with a solo run. Olmeta on the dribble and slotted home his 11th goal of the season.

"We always said that we could beat Marseille on a given day. We did it in this match. It will make a difference for the whole season," Auxerre coach Guy Roux said.

Marseille are still favourites to win the league, but we have 26 points behind the leaders. They need to win every game to have a chance of achieving our goal of qualification for a European Cup competition.

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over from the sacked John Toshack.

Barcelona will discover Tuesday what punishment manager Johan Cruyff and Belgian striker Kristo Stoichkov will receive after being sent off in last Wednesday's incident-packed Supercup first leg defeat against Real Madrid.

Spanish newspapers speculated that Stoichkov could be suspended for two months or more for stamping on the referee's foot after being shown the red card for persistent dissent.

Logrores, second in the league before Sunday, now have a game in hand as their home match with fifth-placed Osasuna was postponed because of snow.

Real Oviedo's home game with Athletic Bilbao was also postponed due to snow.

Athletic Madrid, who won 1-0 away at Cadiz Saturday, move up into third place.

On a weekend when three of the leading four Italian clubs did not play a league game, the poor condition of Italy's most prestigious soccer pitches, those of Rome, Milan, Genoa and Torino, continued to cause concern.

With AC Milan otherwise engaged in the World Club Championship and Juventus deprived of games because of unplayable pitches, Internazionale's move to the top of the table after a 5-1 win over Cesena lost much of its significance.

In Florence speculation is mounting about the future of Brazilian manager Sebastiao Lazaroni.

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oni's cause was not helped by a 1-1 home draw with Bari which left Fiorentina fifth from bottom.

Reports over the weekend suggested that Argentina Daniel Passarella, a former Fiorentina player, may replace Lazaroni as team coach.

Lothar Matthaeus scored the go-ahead goal in the 32nd minute to open a four-goal second half Sunday, giving Internazionale a 5-1 rout of Cesena.

The away victory gave Inter 18 points and broke a three-way tie atop the first division.

In other games, Napoli, missing its Latin American stars Diego Maradona and Antonio Careca, played to a scoreless draw against Atalanta in Bergamo.

The defending league champion Napoli dropped seven points behind Inter and virtually out of league title contention.

Elsewhere, Lazio of Rome played to its ninth draw in 12 games following a 1-1 at home against Genoa. Parma-Bologna also ended 1-1, while Lecce downed Cagliari 2-0.

Bayern Munich, Kaiserslautern and Werder Bremen are all jockeying for the lead as the German Bundesliga prepares to go into hibernation for two months after Saturday's matches.

All three teams have 22 points but league champions Bayern have a golden chance to end the autumn season in first place when they visit lowly Bayer Uerdingen.

In the Dutch league, PSV Eindhoven managed to hold their one-point lead over Ajax Amsterdam with a 5-1 home win over Fortuna Sittard.

But the team managed by former British coach Bobby Robson won scant praise

for their style.

"For the first 86 minutes PSV were as poor as they've been so often this season, filling the time with a lot of shuffling and little action," the Volkskrant newspaper said.

Defending champions Ajax routed Feyenoord 4-0 and, with a game in hand, continue to look the most polished side in the country.

"Ajax are in a league apart," said Feyenoord's Swedish manager Gunde Bengtsson.

Portuguese champions Porto recaptured the lead in the soccer league Sunday after an easy 3-1 home victory over mid-table Maritimo.

Benfica, who went top Saturday after beating Sporting 2-0, slipped to second place and their Lisbon rivals to third.

After 16 games Porto have 26 points. Benfica 28 Sporting 27. Brazilian striker Baltazar Morais, newly-signed from Atletico Madrid, put Porto in front with a 32nd minute header.

Comptroler Gerardo made it 2-0 five minutes later with a 20 metre free-kick and French striker Stephane Paille grabbed the third in the 46th minute, heading home a cross from Paulo Pereira.

Maritimo's spirits sank even lower 15 minutes from time when their striker from Barcelona, Peter Hines, was taken off with a head injury.

Doctors said he briefly lost consciousness but he would be ready to go back into the team to victory.

In the final minute Maritimo's Jose Guedes scored a consolation goal keeping the ball over the goalkeeper's head.

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## Karpov postpones 19th game after loss in 18th

LYON, France (R) — Challenger Anatoly Karpov postponed the 19th game of his match with world chess champion Garry Kasparov by calling one of his timeouts Monday.

Karpov's delegation phoned the request to chief arbiter Geurt Gijssen 10 minutes before the noon deadline for postponements.

Kasparov took the lead in the 24-game series with a win in the adjourned 18th game Sunday, making the score 9½ to 8½ with three wins, two losses and 13 draws.

The champion needs only a 12-12 draw to keep the title, but he hopes for a convincing victory. Karpov having tied their previous encounter in 1987.

The next game is scheduled for Wednesday, with Karpov having the advantage of the white pieces and the first move.

Each player has one time-out remaining for the contest, and may use it at his discretion to postpone play.

Kasparov needed only seven minutes of thought to knock off 16 moves and wrap up what experts had regarded as a certain victory.

Karpov, who is sequestered in the hills outside the city centre, called the organisation a few hours before play was scheduled to resume to request a technical time-out, saying snow made it impossible for him to make the trip to the Palais de Congress.

By Sunday morning 15 centimetres of snow had fallen on Lyon and up to 30 centimetres in higher terrain around the city, with parties continuing into the afternoon.

According to deputy chess arbiter Carlos Falcon, Gijssen set off in a car to demonstrate to Karpov that it was possible to make the journey.

Play was delayed for about seven minutes before Gijssen and Karpov arrived at the Palais de Congress. The players smiled and shook hands before resuming battle.

Both men played quickly when the game restarted, evidently having analysed the intricacies of the position overnight.

In less than 25 minutes they managed a number of moves that would ordinarily take two hours — further indication that the game had been worked out to a finish by both camps overnight.

Many experts felt that Karpov had gained a slight psychological advantage with his immediate comeback win in game 17 but now reckon time is running out for the challenger.

"I wouldn't say it's over. But... it all depends on the next game. Kasparov has been in trouble with the black pieces," Dutch international master Bruno Karperman said.

## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY DECEMBER 11  
By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll, Righter

**GENERAL TENDENCIES:** All the various items of a cooperative nature should be discussed first if you are planning to develop real estate. An Aries and a Leo offer positive insight into your current situation.

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) This is your day to use that natural cleverness you have to get out of some difficult situation and to find the assistance that you will need.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20) Money matters require more than usual attention now and while you have some very good aspects for conventional and conservative methods take care.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) You shift between a happy and a discontented mood and since you have the power of the planets with you, you are able to turn problems around.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) Get into those matters that have been bugging you and that you have not known how to handle and remove any confusion around you.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) Now you find that those you regard as friends are at the root of whatever problems or benefits you have so watch what happens and accept the good.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) Get together with various important outside personalities and see what they will do to get what you want through their assistance.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 23) So many new ideas are coming through your mind that you need to use much discretion in order to rightly select the one to do.

**SCORPIO:** (October 24 to November 21) You have been told to do and you would just as soon be off on some personal project but it is up to you to do what you need to do.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) Take some time to seek out partners and get the dirty grity of what you expect of them and what they expect of you.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) Take some time now to show you do value the good will of usual allies who may be by side with you and you have a project to do.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) Look to those of whom you are fond for some release from all the various tensions through which you have been going through at this time.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) Your family may be in a fluctuating mood at one moment, pleasant and harried the next to keep your own cool and do nothing to make them feel anxious.

**THE BETTER HALF.** By Harris  
HARRIS II-8

"I wouldn't have this sinus problem if you didn't make me pay through the nose!"

**JUMBLE.** THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one in each square, to form four ordinary words.

EDGUF  
ALGIE  
CLEBUK  
NOYRAC

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: \_\_\_\_\_

Yesterday's Jumbles: EXERT RAINY DOMINO SCARCE  
Answer: Many a woman thinks she is fond of sports until she does this—MARRIES ONE

**THE Daily Crossword** by Marcy Johnson

ACROSS  
1 Race track  
5 Deal  
8 Fluorescent light filling  
13 Once more  
14 Comedian  
15 Johnson  
16 Milk farm  
18 Concerning  
19 Area  
20 Rejects (a lover)  
21 Clever play  
22 Sparrow  
23 Counter  
24 Fish jelly  
25 Relieves  
27 Bored  
31 Rules  
34 And others:  
36 Dorothy's dog  
37 Utter incoherently  
39 Empty talk  
41 Jostle  
42 Hurl  
43 Outmoded  
45 Specified field  
47 Singer John  
49 Boots  
51 Ferpie's prince  
53 Bad habits  
59 Titled lady  
60 Open courtyard  
61 Legal paper  
62 Pindar's works  
63 Maternally related  
64 "Let —" (Beats)  
65 Certain timber  
66 Woodland deity  
67 Draft agay  
68 Kind of beans

4 Add to a poker pool  
5 State color  
6 In any case  
7 Certain trucks  
8 Be next to  
9 Pour  
10 Young sow  
11 Right: pref.  
12 Well St. letters  
14 Mockers  
21 Overflow  
22 Direction  
26 Spectral  
28 Decays  
29 Indians  
30 Puffed apart  
31 Recipe abbr.  
32 — and away!  
33 Hurry  
35 Eve's boy  
38 Choose  
40 Aloop

43 Spas  
46 "For — or  
48 Sample  
50 Flightless birds  
52 Translator  
53 Abrasive

54 Rebecca and  
55 Matures  
56 Actor Andrews  
57 Mild cath  
58 Person in authority

## Grand Slam Cup hopes go down to controversy

MINNIE, Tenn. — The Grand Slam Cup, a \$100,000 prize fund, is set to be held in Tenn. on Tuesday. The tournament is the first of its kind in the world. It is a tennis tournament. The prize fund is \$100,000. The tournament is held in Tenn. on Tuesday.

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## GCC may set up \$15b fund for Arab states

NICOSIA (R) — Oil-producing Gulf Arab states may launch a fund of up to \$15 billion to help other Arab countries, a Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) official said in remarks published Monday.

"There are suggestions to earmark between \$10 to \$15 billion by Gulf Arab states for a financial aid programme," the Qatari daily Al Raya quoted the GCC's deputy secretary general for financial affairs, Abdullah Al Quwaiz, as saying.

He said the proposal was not a response to Iraqi demands for Arab oil wealth to be distributed more evenly among Arab states. GCC countries already give aid to other Arab countries.

Details would be decided at a GCC summit in Doha on Dec 22, the first since Iraq's invasion of Kuwait on Aug. 2. The GCC groups Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Oman, the United Arab Emirates and the ousted government of Kuwait.

"There was a hole in the way followed by GCC states in giving aid," Quwaiz said without elaborating.

Qatari Foreign Minister Mubarak Ali Al Khatir said the GCC might also set up a joint military force and that the summit would discuss developing an arms industry in member states.

GCC foreign ministers ended three days of talks in Doha Monday.

### AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Monday, December 10, 1990 Central Bank official rates				
	Buy	Sell		
U.S. dollar	658.0	662.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	504.3 507.3
Pound Sterling	1285.6	1293.3	Dutch guilder	397.1 399.5
Deutschemark	448.0	450.7	Swedish crown	118.7 119.4
Swiss franc	525.3	528.5	Italian lira (for 100)	59.4 59.8
French franc	131.9	132.7	Belgian franc (for 100)	214.3 215.6

### LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.

One Sterling	1.95/96	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.1570/80	Canadian dollar
	1.4688/95	Deutschemark
	1.6550/60	Dutch guilders
	1.2557/64	Swiss francs
	30.42/47	Belgian francs
	4.9895/9945	French francs
	1107/1108	Italian lire
	130.90/131.00	Japanese yen
	5.5400/50	Swedish crowns
	5.7550/7600	Norwegian crowns
	5.6550/6600	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	372.20/372.70	U.S. dollars

### WORLD STOCK MARKETS

By Reuters

**TOKYO** — Stocks closed higher on the back of a stronger yen and on optimism over the Gulf crisis. The Nikkei closed up 262.18 to 23,784.67.

**SYDNEY** — Shares limped to a softer close in lifeless trade. The All Ordinaries Index closed 6.1 down at 1329.6.

**HONG KONG** — Hong Kong shares closed lower on profit-taking but off the day's low. The Hang Seng eased 14.56 points to 3,143.13.

**SINGAPORE** — Shares closed down on moderate trade. The Straits Times Index fell 17.98 to end at 1,179.87.

**BOMBAY** — Share prices ended broadly higher despite profit-taking. The Bombay Stock Exchange Index rose 35.04 to 1,214.54.

**FRANKFURT** — Shares ended a quiet session mixed with a lower bias. The Dax Index ended 8.04 down at 1,504.80.

**ZURICH** — Swiss share prices ended lower as cautious investors took profits after last week's gains. The SPI Index lost 7.7 points to 930.1.

**PARIS** — Profit-taking after last week's 5.3 pct gain and a modest rise in oil prices pulled the Paris Bourse lower. The CAC-40 Index fell 15.70 points to 1,675.01 on volume of about 1.7 billion francs.

**LONDON** — London Stocks slumped in late trade, reflecting market disappointment over the allocation of shares in state-owned electricity firms. The FTSE closed at 2,182.5.

**NEW YORK** — U.S. blue chips rose near midday, helped by programme buying. Strength in some banking stocks provided encouragement. The Dow was up six to 2,596.

## Recession officially hits Canada

OTTAWA (AP) — Canada officially has tumbled into recession when the government statistics agency announced the economy shrank at an annual rate of 1.0 per cent during July, August and September.

A recession is when the economy records negative growth during two consecutive quarters or longer. The Canadian economy had already shrunk at an annual rate of 1.2 per cent during April, May and June.

"It's pretty dismal," said Mike Manford, chief economist and investment dealer at Scotiabank Inc. "It clearly indicates that the business sector is in full retreat."

Manford said the Canadian economy won't improve until the United States pulls itself out of a recession.

"The real problem is that we're not going to come out of this until next summer," Manford predicted.

Weakness in the Canadian economy has spread widely, hurting business investment, company profits, exports, employment and consumer spending. Statistics Canada said. Temporary factors such as unusually large tax payments in April and widespread strikes have only made things worse.

"Corporation profits have been sliding for six quarters, interest rates are relatively high and businesses are having increasing difficulty financing their investment undertakings," the government office said.

Business investment in new plants and equipment, which economists had hoped would be an important source of strength for the country this year, has dropped 4.9 per cent between April and the end of September.

After growing in the first half of the year, exports have been hurt by a slowing economy in the United States and a strong Canadian dollar, Statistics Canada said.

The growing number of layoffs has caused consumer spending to grind to a halt.

Statistics Canada also reported that the economy fell a sharp 0.8 per cent during September after a drop of 0.4 per cent in August.

"These were the largest back-to-back declines since April of 1982, and left output 1.1 per cent below December 1989," the agency said.

There's little improvement on the horizon, Statistics Canada said in its flagship publication Canadian Economic Observer.

## Jordanian dinar remains strong amid uncertainties

By P.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Despite the uncertainties in the region, and the visible economic setbacks suffered by Jordan as a result of the Gulf crisis, the Jordanian currency remains strong and, if anything, is fluctuating in the black market in line with the international wobbles of the American dollar.

The greenback took a gradual plunge in Amman's black market in the past week, and was being traded below 700 fils Monday compared with 725-735 fils last Monday.

Bankers attributed the decline to three main factors: The loss in the value of the dollar in the international markets, the disclosure last week that the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) had a relatively healthy foreign exchange reserve of \$560 million in addition to gold and outstanding receivables, and the "drop" in the temperature of war fever after the U.S. offered and Iraq accepted direct Washington-Baghdad contacts over the Gulf crisis.

The official daily rate set by the CBJ also reflects the fluctuations in the value of the dollar in the international market. The CBJ rate for the dollar Monday was 658/662 fils compared with 652/655 average last week.

"But the situation can change dramatically if the current signs of a peace process emerging start fading," warned a banker. "It will only take some war-like cries from the West to put up the heat again," he said.

Announcing the reserves last week, CBJ Governor Mohammad Saeed Al Nabulsi also put to rest speculations that a devaluation of the dinar was in the offing. He said there was no circumstance which warranted any devaluation of the currency, which, according to most bankers and analysts, now more or less reflects its real value against foreign currency.

"Panic withdrawals are no longer the order of the day, and our business is as usual," said a senior official at the Arab Bank, Jordan's biggest commercial bank. "Deposits and withdrawals are steady, and more often than not we register an increase of daily deposits," he told the Jordan Times.

Officials of the Housing Bank and Grindlays Bank, two other major banking institutions of the country, reported an almost similar situation.

But the officials reported a crunch in foreign currency in cash. They attributed it not to any flight of funds from the country but to what they unanimously described as a tendency among the people to hold on to cash in foreign exchange.

Several banks are resorting to bringing in cash in foreign currency from Europe through courier and charge an additional two per cent to the CBJ rate while meeting the market's needs.

"Most banks are now focusing on personal savings accounts and individual credit lines in view of the decline in the imports and exports," said a senior official in charge of trading at an Amman bank. "Therefore it becomes inevitable that the bank has to meet the requests of its clients for foreign currency in cash."

Central Bank and Finance Ministry officials said there was no real pressure from commercial banks on the authorities for foreign currency. "They are tending for themselves and there is no real pressure on the CBJ for foreign currency," said an official who preferred anonymity.

Expatriates who had been complaining about tight restrictions on their remittances home now report easier procedures and relaxed regulations within ceilings set by the respective banks. Most banks allow a maximum monthly transfer of \$100 per expatriate after verifying the transferer's credentials such as valid work and residence permits in Jordan.

However, stern warnings by the CBJ and other authorities against unlicensed selling and buying of foreign currency have not had a real impact on the market, dealers say. "It only takes a quick trip to downtown Amman to find that there remains a high number of street hawkers who deal in foreign currency," said a banker.

## Algeria lays groundwork for first stock market

ALGIERS (R) — Algeria has created its first stock exchange company in a major step towards a market economy after two decades of socialist central planning.

Officials said Monday the Societe de Bourse was formally created Sunday to establish and run a stock market in which trading would probably be limited at first to state firms.

The project is designed to raise desperately needed cash for Algeria's 486 public sector companies, most of which now run a deficit, and absorb some of the billions of dinars circulating outside the banking system.

The officials said a new commercial code due to be adopted by the national assembly by the end of the year would set ground rules, but the government has proposed that only state firms be allowed to quote and trade shares at the start.

Private share companies, far more profitable than their public

counterparts, could be quoted at a later stage and allowed to buy and sell shares in each other.

The government, under fire from headline critics in the ruling National Liberation Front who accuse it of unbridled liberalism, has insisted it has no plans to privatise the public sector.

Prime Minister Mouloud Hamrouche Sunday reiterated his government's pledge to complete the legal framework for a market economy by the new year, ending the system of central planning set up in the 1960s and 1970s.

The transition includes budget and decision-making independence for state firms, all but 23 of which are to become "autonomous" by December.

The state firms are already giant state holding companies each of which took an equal share in the 320,000 dinar (\$32,000) capital of the new stock market venture.

Ownership of the Societe de Bourse may later include other

state financial institutions and firms, and operations are due to begin early next year at a site on the fair and exhibition grounds outside Algiers, the officials said.

The market will also be authorised to deal in treasury bonds the government plans to issue to fund an estimated 60 billion dinars (\$6 billion) in public sector debt to the treasury.

An official study found that only 25 per cent of state firms earned a profit in 1988, compared to 91 per cent of private firms. It is thought that shares of only a few state firms, those in the best financial shape, would be traded initially.

The officials said a stock market commission would be set up to supervise and control trading activities.

The government is also studying a law that would allow workers' collectives to buy shares in their companies. This could eventually pave the way for some exchange of shares between the collectives.

## Reconstruction of Kuwait could cost \$40 billion

DHAHRAN, Saudi Arabia (R) — The reconstruction of Kuwait may take as long as four years

and as much as \$40 billion to repair damage done by Iraqi troops if Baghdad withdrew peacefully without blowing up oil production facilities.

But even if it withdraws peacefully, diplomats and bankers say Iraq is unlikely to pay promptly, if at all, reparations that will be demanded by the emirate it took over in August.

Eyewitnesses and members of the government-in-exile say Iraq has systematically emptied their country.

They claim the Iraqis have hauled away hospital equipment, computers, telephone booths, paving stones as well as desks, chairs and books from schools. They allege Iraqis have emptied warehouses, burned offices and made off with the furniture and cars of fleeing residents.

"Everything they think could be used or valuable is taken by the Iraqis," said Abdullah Al Shayeji of Kuwait University's faculty of commerce, economics and political science. He fled Kuwait two weeks ago.

"To rebuild Kuwait, we will have to import everything from the needle to the rocket," he told Reuters.

Ali Al Bader, exiled chairman of the Bank of Kuwait and the Middle East, has estimated it would take up to four years to repair damage done by Iraqi troops if Baghdad withdrew peacefully without blowing up oil production facilities.

Iraqis seized unknown reserves of gold and currency from the Kuwaiti central bank, said a leading Gulf bank economist who asked not to be identified.

A still unknown chunk of the Kuwaiti military apparatus, which usually receives one third of the annual \$9 billion budget, has been appropriated, Shayeji said.

Analysts estimate that Kuwait has lost \$6 billion in unrealised oil revenues since the invasion, based on normal production of two million barrels per day, including 750,000 barrels of higher-price refined products like naphtha.

A former Kuwaiti finance minister, Jassem Al Kharafi, said the cost of rebuilding the emirate after the invasion could rise as high as \$40 billion.

He said the toll from destruction could run from \$15 billion to \$20 billion. The freezing of Kuwaiti assets abroad, losses to private business and unrealised oil production could add \$15 billion to \$20 billion to the tab.

A Western banker in the region said: "I think the total would be \$20 billion or \$25 billion at least. Iraq can only do it on a long-term basis. There are a lot of questions about their willingness to repay anyway."

Kuwait's crown prince, Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah, insisted last week that a worldwide economic embargo should not be lifted until Iraq pays damages for plundering the emirate.

While Iraq is facing a cash squeeze, analysts said, Kuwait can afford to rebuild itself, with an estimated \$100 billion invested abroad over the years.

Iraq owes about \$70 billion, half to Gulf states and half to commercial banks. When restored, revenue from an oil output of some three million barrels per day would help pay that if not for bills rung up to fortify Iraq's war machine.

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## Walesa wins landslide victory

WARSAW (AP) — Elected by a landslide in Poland's first popular presidential vote, Lech Walesa went promptly to work Monday on his pledge to build this fledgling democracy into an economically sound "pillar of peace."

Walesa, who led the decade-long struggle that ended authoritarian Communist rule, acknowledged that "terribly difficult tasks" lie ahead as he attempts to complete the painful transition to a market-based economy.

"I want to work because there is a lot of work to be done," the former shipyard electrician told reporters at his Gdansk headquarters after defeating emigre businessman Stanislaw Tyminski in Sunday's runoff.

Indeed the new president began his five-year term just a few minutes past 9 a.m., driven in a new government car with three police vehicles in escort.

He later made a sentimental pilgrimage to the former Lenin Shipyard, his former workplace and birthplace of Solidarity. Walesa told workers he wouldn't forget that he once worked overalls. "I am going to return here

often," he said.

The Solidarity chief's margin of victory was 73.25 per cent to 26.75 per cent with official results in from all but one province.

Two bitter and divisive rounds of voting have strained the nation, splintering the Solidarity movement a year after Poland ousted the Communists and embarked on the most ambitious economic reform plan in Eastern Europe.

Walesa said he would decide by Wednesday which of seven possible candidates to select to succeed Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki. The former Walesa ally was eliminated by Tyminski in the Nov. 25 first round of presidential voting.

In a taped address to the nation Sunday night, Walesa repeated his campaign theme of speeding up the dismantling of Communist-collective industries and encouraging private enterprise.

"In Poland there is enough work for everyone. We must change and modernise much," he said. "Europe will appreciate us for this. An economically de-

veloped Poland will be one of the pillars of peace and calm in Europe, whereas a poor Poland will meet a wall of disapproval at all borders."

"I hope to be a good sheriff — determined, strong and effective," Walesa told a news conference earlier. Some Mazowiecki supporters have accused the vocational school graduate of demagoguery and promising more than he could possibly deliver.

Walesa sipped champagne for the TV cameras and gave an awkward but affectionate kiss to his wife Danuta at the insistence of photographers.

He said he thought Tyminski would "fade away quickly" but was worried about the wellspring of anger the emigre businessman apparently harnessed in his come-from-nowhere campaign.

Newspaper editor Adam Michnik, a Mazowiecki ally who has bitterly accused Walesa of demagogic tendencies, promised "loyal" opposition.

Writing Thursday in his paper, *Gazeta Wyborcza*, Michnik described Walesa as an "outstanding politician" who had to decide

which course he would pursue as president: "The rhetoric of promises, the principles of courtesy rule, the philosophy of decrees and the 'ax,' or realism, responsibility, respect for pluralism and the philosophy of the state of law."

Turnout in Sunday's vote was about 53 per cent, compared to about 60 per cent in the first round, according to preliminary results.

Tyminski's best showing was among rural voters — where he obtained about 35 per cent. The Quixotic challenger who returned to Poland in September after 21 years in Peru and Canada had promised prosperity in a month, finding support in people frustrated by economic hardship and rising unemployment.

"There are many people in Poland for whom it is really bad," Walesa said. "We must... make Poland such that those doubters quickly join us, because we need them."

Tyminski declined to concede defeat immediately, saying voters had been intimidated by Walesa's camp. Journalists noticed no signs of irregularities.

## Gorbachev warns of aggression in Nobel speech

OSLO (R) — A Soviet official accepted the Nobel Peace Prize Monday on behalf of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, who said in a message from Moscow that the world still faced threats of aggression and totalitarianism.

Gorbachev missed the award ceremony to grapple with economic and political strife in the Soviet Union. His critics attacked the prize as a misguided Western endorsement of an unpopular Communist.

First Deputy Foreign Minister Anatoly Kovalyov received the 1990 award — a gold medal, a diploma and a cheque for four million Swedish crowns (\$715,000) — on Gorbachev's behalf in a ceremony at Oslo's town hall.

Kovalyov read a message from Gorbachev, the first Communist head of state to win the award, which said the world faced a choice — "a unique opportunity for reason and the logic of peace to prevail over that of war and annihilation."

While the world moved towards peace in 1990 "there are some very grave threats that have not been eliminated: the potential for conflict... aggressive intentions and totalitarian traditions," he added.

Gorbachev won the 1990 award for helping end the cold war and smashing the former hardline Communist order in East Europe, paving the way for German unification and democratic reform behind the demolished Berlin Wall.

"The Nobel Committee wishes to emphasise the tremendous potential which is now available for a more secure world," Gidske Anderson, head of the secretive five-member Nobel Committee, said at the ceremony.

Gorbachev is not the first laureate to miss the ceremony, others include Solidarity leader Lech Walesa in 1983, who won Poland's presidential election Sunday, and the late Soviet human rights campaigner Andrei Sakharov in 1975.

Both were ironically prevented from coming to Oslo by an intolerant Kremlin leadership which Gorbachev has replaced.

Many Soviet citizens were baffled that Gorbachev should be honoured with the prize awarded in 1901 and named after Sweden's Alfred Nobel, while their country faces political and economic chaos.

Kovalyov quoted Gorbachev as saying he did not see the award as a personal honour, but "as a recognition of what we call perestroika and innovative political thinking, which is of vital significance for human destinies all over the world."

## Communists leading in Serbia, Montenegro polls

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia (AP) — Communists Monday appeared to be in the lead from voting in elections in Serbia and Montenegro, the country's last two Marxist-run republics.

Victories by the Communists could deepen the rifts in the country. Yugoslavia is composed of six republics and two provinces, which differ widely not only in their ethnic makeup but also in their political philosophy.

Opposition officials said early indications showed Serbia's hardline President Slobodan Milosevic in the lead and his Socialists — the renamed Communists — also leading in other republican races. They did not specify the sources of their indications.

The official Yugoslav News Agency, Tanjug, said the Communists had taken an early lead in Montenegro.

The opposition Democratic Party in Serbia accused the Communists of vote-rigging.

"All I can say is they are leading well," said Jova Vukelic, press spokesman for the Democrats.

Another Democratic Party official Alexander Raznjatovic said Milosevic could even win an outright majority in his first round bid to retain the republic's powerful presidency.

Serbia and its traditional, pro-Communist ally Montenegro, are pitted against the Western-minded republics of Slovenia and Croatia over whether the volatile Balkan country's six states stick together or split.

Centre-right coalitions ousted the Communists in Slovenia and Croatia in regional elections earlier this year.

Milosevic's main rival for president, Vuk Draskovic, populist leader of the opposition Serbian Renewal Movement, has said he



is prepared to negotiate with Croatia and Slovenia. They favour the formation of a loose confederation of sovereign states. He has said he is also ready to accept a split.

Milosevic has refused to acknowledge the possibility of a break-up of the Yugoslav Federation or to negotiate with Slovenia and Croatia.

Draskovic, lobbying for capitalism and restored Serbian dominance in the Yugoslav Federation, agrees with Milosevic in favouring tight Serbian control over the province of Kosovo.

The ethnic Albanian majority in Kosovo, stripped of its autonomy earlier this year by Serbia, boycotted Sunday's elections in protest at their loss of self-government. Their political parties are not recognised by Serbia's government.

In Montenegro, Tanjug said, the Communist candidate for Montenegro's presidency Momir Bulatovic was leading and predicted he would win office without having to face a run-off vote also scheduled for Dec. 23.

## Soviet Central Committee discusses union treaty

MOSCOW (AP) — The official Soviet news agency TASS Monday said rumours that President Mikhail Gorbachev will step down as Communist Party chief are "totally unfounded."

Gorbachev opened a plenary session of the party's Central Committee in the Kremlin, which was convened to discuss a draft union treaty and tasks of party organisations, TASS said.

"Although the Communist Party has become an opposition party in many republics after the last elections, it remains the only truly national political force," TASS said.

"This gives Gorbachev a chance to preserve the union and at the same time to give new meaning to 'sovereignty of union republics,'" the news agency said. "Therefore, rumours that Gorbachev may resign as party leader at this plenary meeting are totally unfounded."

TASS did not say where the

rumours came from.

Rumours of Gorbachev's possible resignation as party head have been circulating for a year, most recently surfacing in a report last week in the German newspaper Bild. In a speech to Moscow City Communist Party conference two weeks ago, Gorbachev specifically denied he would step down as party chief.

The news agency said the Central Committee would discuss the new union treaty draft and preparations for the fourth USSR Congress of People's Deputies, scheduled to open on Dec. 17.

According to the TASS report, the Central Committee may make changes in the politburo following changes made in the party leadership at the republican level in Byelorussia and Georgia.

"Despite a change in the balance of political forces in the country, much depends on the results of today's plenum," TASS said.

## Sri Lankan rebel leader killed

COLOMBO (AP) — Government troops shot and killed a Tamil rebel leader codenamed "Qadhafi" while he was leading an attack on an army camp in the Jaffna peninsula, military officials said Monday.

They said "Qadhafi," who like many Tamil Tiger separatist rebels used an alias, was killed Sunday while leading an unsuccessful commando assault on the Kaduvan camp about 290 kilometres northeast of Colombo.

Another Tamil rebel, two government soldiers and five Sinhalese extremists were killed in separate operations elsewhere in the country Sunday, according to the military officials who under briefing rules cannot be identified.

The Sinhalese extremists died in a gun battle with government forces near a jungle cave hideout at Nadura Oya, 150 kilometres east of Colombo, the officials said. A large cache of arms was found in the cave, they added.

They said the extremists belonged to the People's Liberation Front, which waged a campaign of assassinations and bombing from 1987 to 1989 in an attempt to overthrow the government.

The front, which accused the Sinhalese-dominated government of making too many concessions to the Tamil minority, had kept a low profile since its top leaders were killed by government security forces a year ago. In the last few months, flare-ups have been reported as the front tried to re-

group. Two soldiers were killed by the Tamil Tigers in an ambush near Seruwalla in the Trincomalee district, about 230 kilometres northeast of Colombo, the officials said.

One Tamil Tiger was killed by police commandos who confiscated two land mines near Akkaiappattu on the east coast, 215 kilometres east of Colombo, they said.

More than 11,000 people have been killed in the Tamil separatist war that started in 1983.

Tamils, who make up 18 per cent of Sri Lanka's 16 million people, accuse the Sinhalese majority of discriminating against them in jobs and education. Sinhalese comprise 75 per cent

## Havel warns of Czechoslovak collapse

PRAGUE (R) — President Vaclav Havel warned Monday that Czechoslovakia was on the verge of internal collapse and urged politicians to avert a crisis that would attract the world's scorn and the curses of future generations.

He called on parliament to grant him increased presidential powers, and to establish a constitutional court and procedures for referendums, as the temporary means of dealing with an increasingly knotty dispute dividing Czechs and Slovaks.

"There is no doubt a constitutional crisis is looming but we have no means to deal with it," Havel told a joint session of the federal assembly.

"The state is not endangered from outside, as has happened many times in the past, but from within. We are putting it at risk by our own lack of political culture, lack of democratic awareness and mutual understanding and... lack of experience."

Havel was addressing parliament before it began debating a delicate bill which devolves many powers from central government to Czechoslovakia's two constituent republics.

The bill has been thrashed out between the federal, Czech and Slovak governments after months of heated negotiations. But deputies in the Czech lands, the larger part of the country, want to make amendments, saying it concedes too much to strident Slovak demands for the autonomy of their region.

The Slovak National Council (parliament) said it would declare the sovereignty of the region's own laws over those of the Czechoslovak Federation if the bill is not passed unchanged.

Havel said such a step "would be the beginning of the split of Czechoslovakia as a state. Our country would cease to exist."

Czechoslovakia "would inevitably plunge into utter legal chaos," separate Czech and Slovak states would have no chance of surviving and the world would turn its back, he added.

"We would be cursed by future generations and the world community would declare us fools," Havel said.

He reminded deputies that public opinion polls showed an overwhelming majority of people want a federal state to continue, even in strongly nationalistic Slovakia, the eastern third of the 15-million-strong country.

Referendums should become the supreme constitutional arbiter, he said.

## Colombia seizes rebel HQ; ex-guerrilla wins elections

BOGOTA (R) — Colombia's army said it seized an important rebel headquarters as a former guerrilla leader won an election victory and a key role in designing a new constitution.

While Colombians voted for an assembly to reform the constitution Sunday, the armed forces attacked the mountain headquarters of the Colombian Revolutionary Armed Forces (FARC), the country's biggest rebel group.

"The zone which until today constituted the nerve centre of bandit actions is under total control of military units," army commander Major-General Manuel Murillo said in a statement.

The fortress, set up during peace talks with the government in 1985, had acquired a reputation for impregnability and the army had never attacked it.

The air force used Kfir, A-37

and Mirage aircraft, helicopters and ground forces to attack the Casa Verde Camp in the remote Uribe region some 150 kilometres south of the capital Bogota.

The army said seven soldiers and four airmen were killed in the battle as well as an unknown number of guerrillas. Radio reports said up to 60 guerrillas died. The fate of the FARC's legendary commander, Manuel Marulanda, and other leaders is unknown.

The Marxist FARC, Latin America's oldest guerrilla group has been fighting since 1964 and has around 8,000 fighters.

The attack signals a new hard-line approach to the FARC, which the government says has responded with violence to its peace proposals. It makes the chance of a peace accord look remote, political analysts say.

## Aquino urged to call early elections

MANILA (R) — A leading senator Monday urged President Corason Aquino to call elections in five months, saying the Philippines needed new leadership to survive a crisis of confidence.

Senator John Osmena said Aquino and Congress had failed to live up to the high hopes generated by the 1986 "people power" revolt which ousted the late President Ferdinand Marcos.

He called for presidential and congressional elections one year ahead of schedule, in May 1991 instead of May 1992.

"Cabinet revamps and other stop-gap measures will not address the problem. The people need a change of leadership," he said.

Politicians say there is a growing feeling that Aquino cannot provide the leadership to tackle a deep-rooted economic crisis, but they are not sure how to remove her.

Osmena, a member of a leading political family, told a public breakfast forum that he hoped to build a consensus in favour of early elections.

"I think we should work towards generating a consensus for early polls, because people are exasperated. A cabinet (reshuffle) is not enough," Osmena said.

"I don't think the country — not just the president herself — can survive another 18 months."

President Aquino said in a broadcast Sunday that she would sack ineffective ministers and called a special session of Congress to tackle the economy.

Aquino, who has survived six coup attempts, said the country was in peril, and appealed to labour organisations not to resort to violence following public outrage over a 45 per cent increase last week in oil prices because of the Gulf crisis.

Two previous attempts to oust Aquino have followed increases in fuel prices.

Aquino has refused to resign. "I cherish your understanding. I will not fail you," she said.

Meanwhile armed men Monday opened fire on workers attending a Philippine labour convention at a Manila university, killing two union leaders and wounding another, the government news agency said.

It said the gunmen, armed with pistols and an automatic rifle, escaped in a car and the motive for the attack was not immediately known.

Police said they were investigating if the incident was linked to a public transport strike launched in Manila Monday by leftist unions protesting against a government decision to raise fuel prices.

## Hindu-Muslim violence continues in 2 Indian cities

HYDERABAD, India (R) — Violence between Hindus and Muslims rumbled through two Indian cities Monday despite the dispatch of soldiers to halt ferocity in which more than 100 people have been killed in four days.

Officials in the city of Hyderabad, 1,300 kilometres south of Delhi, reported several clashes in the old city, under curfew since Friday and taken over by the army Sunday.

At least four people were injured, they said.

About 75 people have been killed in Hyderabad, many of them slashed to death with knives, since the sectarian violence erupted.

In the town of Aligarh in northern Uttar Pradesh state, the death toll rose to 40, officials said. They reported small bomb blasts and some sniping Monday.

The fresh violence in Aligarh was in reaction to a local newspaper report that some patients had been killed in hospital, they said. Officials described the report as "totally baseless."

Both towns have large Muslim populations and the violence came amid a renewed campaign by Hindu militants to tear down a mosque in the holy northern town

of Ayodhya and replace it with a temple to their god, Lord Rama. India's 100 million Muslims are heavily outnumbered by the Hindu population of 850 million. The temple issue has generated enormous tension between the two religions since it gained serious momentum 13 months ago.

More than 1,300 people have died in sectarian violence since the Hindu campaign has been instrumental in the fall of two governments.

Rajiv Gandhi, whose Congress Party supports the minority government, has sent a high level team to Hyderabad. Its members were touring the old city when police had to fire into the air to clear the streets, officials said.

The Hindu-revivalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) called a one-day strike to protest against the violence. Most shops and businesses in the areas of the city not under curfew closed.

Soldiers were conducting house-to-house searches in the old city to uncover arms, the officials said.

In Aligarh, police large quantities of illegal arms and homemade bombs were found in similar searches, the Press Trust of India reported.

The agency quoted one policeman as saying the city had been turned into an "arsenal."

Indian news agencies said an indefinite curfew had been imposed in parts of Kanpur, which like Aligarh and Ayodhya is in Uttar Pradesh state.

At least six people, including five members of the security forces, were injured in clashes between rival mobs armed with stones and knives, they quoted police as saying. They reported some gunfire from rooftops.

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### Drunken soldier leaves camp for home — by tank

VIENNA (R) — An Austrian soldier who wanted to go home stole a tank, crashed out of barracks and drove through Vienna in a drunken dash Sunday. A police spokesman said Gregor Hajek, 29, brought his M-60 tank to a halt overnight a few metres from his home in Vienna's leafy Doebbling district after police pursued him along a motorway from his barracks on the outskirts of the city. Hajek was arrested and, after failing an alcohol test, told police: "I just wanted to go home."

### Brando's daughter becomes ward of court

PAPEETE, Tahiti (R) — A French judge has declared Cheyenne Brando, the daughter of U.S. actor Marlon Brando, incapable of looking after herself, court officials said at the weekend. The 20-year-old former model, a key witness in the death of her lover, has been placed under the care of her mother by the Tahitian court, they added. A California judge gave defence lawyers two weeks to prove Cheyenne Brando was mentally incapable of testifying against her brother in a murder trial. The judge, on this French overseas possession made no specific reference to Cheyenne's ability to attend the trial, but legal sources said it was unlikely she would be allowed to leave Tahiti to give evidence. Christian Brando, Cheyenne's half-brother, is accused of killing her Tahitian lover, Dag Drollet, 26, following a violent argument in Marlon Brando's Hollywood mansion last May. Cheyenne, who was in the house at the time, returned to Tahiti shortly after and gave birth to Drollet's baby there.

### Tintin baffles experts of auction

PARIS (R) — An original Tintin cartoon sold for 3.1 million francs (\$820,000) at an auction in Paris and other high bids for trivial mementoes of the imaginary boy-reporter baffled experts. The colour drawing for the front cover of the 1934 Tintin cartoon album the Pharaoh's Cigars, bought anonymously, had been valued at two million francs (\$400,000). "Very few 15th-century manuscripts fetch that price," said Herve Matte, one of 200 Tintin fanatics from throughout Europe who attended the auction, held near the elegant Champs Elysees Avenue. Albums, T-shirts, ashtrays and dolls of the 61-year-old teenage cartoon character sold for up to five times more than forecast. "Bids took astronomical proportions, well beyond experts' forecasts," said Anne-Marie Personnaz, a spokeswoman for the auctioneers. Matte said he bought for \$840 an advertising leaflet signed by Tintin's Belgian creator, Georges Remi, better known by his pen-name, Hergé. Albums of Tintin cartoons have sold 140 million copies in 44 languages since Remi created the character in 1929. Remi died in 1983 aged 75.

### Greece to sell Onassis yacht

ATHENS (AP) — The Greek government plans to sell the luxury yacht that tycoon Aristotle Onassis donated to it in his will, according to a magazine report. The 325-foot (100-metre) yacht once hosted royalty, heads of state and leading personalities of the jet set. Onassis also used it as the base of his shipping operations. Onassis died in 1975, stipulating in his will that if his daughter Christina did not want the yacht it should go to the Greek state. It was handed over to the Greek Navy in 1978 but has been used very seldom since. The weekly magazine *Tahydromos* has reported that Greece was preparing to auction it. The magazine quoted Ioannis Georgakis, president of the Onassis Foundation, as saying that the foundation wanted the yacht to be handed back to it by the government. "Seeing as they did not want this antiquated and expensive vessel they should have said, 'thanks but we don't want the donation — take it back and make use of it,'" the magazine quoted Georgakis as saying. Georgakis said that the foundation wanted to take Onassis's belongings from the yacht and establish a museum in a cultural centre it is establishing in Athens. Opera singer Maria Callas, who once was romantically involved with Onassis, had her own state on the yacht. Another guest, Jacqueline Kennedy, the widow of assassinated President John F. Kennedy, later married Onassis.

## Winter storm kills 12 in Europe

LONDON (AP) — Britain began digging out from a killer snowfall Monday, while the heavy snow moved to the European continent. At least 12 people have died due to the storm.

Heavy snow fell in France, Spain, Italy, Switzerland, Germany and Austria Monday, snarling traffic and leaving thousands without electricity. Heavy rains and wind in southern Europe closed ferry services and flooded Venice.

Police in Nice, in southern France, said two people were killed Sunday night along the French-Italian border when bad weather sent rocks falling onto their car.

Police in Britain, where snow turned to rain and sleet Monday, said 10 people were killed.

A 20-year-old man froze to

death in his car while trapped for 11 hours in a snowdrift outside Mansfield and a woman died of cold while stranded at a village gas station near Coventry.

A man died in Manchester when a wall was blown down on top of him and an elderly woman died from head injuries when 90-mph (130-kph) winds blew her down at Monkseaton.

Two people died from heart attacks when snow drifts prevented ambulances from reaching them and a woman died in a car crash in a snowstorm at Newby Bridge in the Lake District.

Three young men in one car were killed in heavy snow between Kilmarnock and Dumfries in Scotland.

Five mountain climbers were missing in northern Spain, where small towns cut off by the heavy

snow. Seven major highway mountain passes were closed in the provinces of Burgos, Cantabria, Leon and Soria.

Roads were closed in central Portugal's Serra de Estrela range.

A Spanish Air Force helicopter and a merchant marine tug searched off the north Spanish coast Monday for four people on a French yacht missing in the Bay of Biscay.

Snow fell in Paris, but south-eastern and central France were hardest hit. The main highway between Lyon and Grenoble was inaccessible Monday with traffic rerouted to a small, one-lane highway. The Mount Blanc tunnel through the Alps was closed.

In Switzerland, heavy snow closed roads and delayed train and bus traffic. Zermatt ski resort reported 92 centimetres of snow in 21 hours.

## Communists to chart China's economic policy

PEKING (R) — Chinese Premier Li Peng said Monday that the Communist Party would hold a key strategy session this month to set economic policy but he appeared to rule out any decisions on the fate of deposed party chief Zhao Ziyang.

The premier, speaking to reporters before his departure on an Asian tour, also said that senior leader Deng Xiaoping, 86, who has not been seen in public since July, was in good health. "The seventh plenary session of the Central Committee will be held according to schedule in the latter half of December," he said. "As far as I know the discussions will be devoted exclusively to the five-year plan and the 10-year strategy for economic development. There will be no other item on the agenda."

There has been speculation of a possible resolution of the fate of the man who was toppled from the top party post after the army crushed pro-democracy unrest in June last year.

Party sources have said that the issue is too divisive and would risk further splits in the already fractious leadership.

Zhao, believed to be under virtual house arrest in Peking, was stripped of his party posts though he is still a Communist Party member.

Li, a hardliner who is closely associated with the army crackdown on dissent, did not comment on the prospect of trials of student leader Wang Dan and other activists in last year's pro-democracy unrest.

He declined to say whether foreign observers would be allowed to attend any trials.

Legal proceedings have begun against Wang and a number of others who are being held in Qincheng, a maximum security prison on the outskirts of Peking.

"If they have violated the law they will be dealt with according to law. So far as party and government policies are concerned they are lenient," Li said.